GABRIELE ESPOSITO

THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

HISTORY, ORGANIZATION & UNIFORMS

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History, Organization and Uniforms

Gabriele Esposito

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Introduction

The main aim of this book is to present a detailed overview of the British military forces that fought against the troops of the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution. This analysis will be mostly focused on the organization and uniforms of the units of the British Army, but will also include some details on the allied contingents that supported Great Britain during the war of 1775–83. In particular, the book will cover two categories of non-British troops that fought against George Washington's Continental Army: the American Provincials/Loyalists and the German mercenaries. During the American War of Independence, thousands of inhabitants of the Thirteen Colonies decided to remain loyal to the British government, thus refusing to join the cause of the patriots; they felt that their place in the world was within the British Empire and that George III was a capable monarch. These men, who were colonists and farmers exactly like those who had joined the revolutionary cause, were capable fighters and soon organized themselves into military formations that were attached to the British Army in North America. The corps of Loyalists were raised according to the Provincial recruiting system that had already been employed during the French–Indian War of 1754–63, although some of them consisted of elite fighters and were trained and equipped like ranger units. They soon became infamous among their own colonial communities and were particularly hated by those Americans who had already imagined a different future for their homeland. The Loyalists proved themselves to be excellent soldiers, and some of their corps were particularly admired by the regular officers of the British Army.

By the outbreak of the American Revolution, Britain was the greatest naval and economic power of the world. The Royal Navy dominated the seas and British products were exported to every corner of the globe. Despite this, the British Crown had a relatively small permanent army. Britain played only a marginal role in the great wars of continental Europe during the eighteenth century, meaning it was ill-prepared to fight a large-scale war conflict against the Thirteen Colonies in North America. To enlarge its forces with reliable contingents of professional soldiers, the British government had no choice but to recruit large numbers of mercenaries from several of the small German states that made up the Holy Roman Empire. These were allies of Britain and, considering their populations and economic capabilities,

had quite large armies of professional soldiers. In order to earn substantial sums of money and to continue sustaining their military structures, these German princedoms agreed to 'lend' their best military units to Britain for the duration of the American conflict. The German mercenaries fighting in the American Revolution proved to be first-rate soldiers, most of them being battle-hardened veterans. They were thus a crucial component of the British troops in North America and, unlike most of the Loyalists, were not employed only for auxiliary duties.

The American Revolution was a large-scale international conflict that was fought on continents all around the world, not only in North America. It should be noted that in addition to Britain, it involved another two first-rate European powers: France and Spain. The latter had been fighting together against the British since 1700, when the kingdoms of France and Spain had started to be ruled by the same royal family, the Bourbons. France had been a dominant colonial power in North America until 1754, when the outbreak of the French–Indian War marked the beginning of the end for the French presence in the region. Before this conflict, France controlled a large portion of North America, corresponding to the eastern half of present-day Canada plus the vast and mostly unexplored region of Louisiana, which was massively larger than the present-day US state of the same name. Canada had been settled by the French since the early decades of the seventeenth century, while Louisiana had only started to see the presence of French hunters and merchants shortly before the beginning of the French–Indian War. With their expansion across Louisiana directed towards the southern Gulf of Mexico, the French wanted to link their large Canadian possession with the Caribbean area where they already had important colonies such as Haiti. They controlled the course of the mighty Mississippi and Missouri rivers, which enabled them to connect Canada with the city of New Orleans. Located on the delta of the Mississippi as well as on the Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans was an important commercial outpost thanks to its geographical position. These plans for the creation of a French empire in North America were frustrated by the course of the French–Indian War, which took place at the same time as the Seven Years' War in Europe. The conflict ended in disaster for the French, with the British – who already controlled the areas surrounding Hudson Bay before 1754 – conquering Canada and annexing its territory to their growing global empire. The French also had to evacuate Louisiana, which was divided into two parts: that in the west (including New Orleans) was given to Spain, while the eastern portion was occupied by Great Britain. Consequently, by 1763, France no longer had a colonial presence in North America. Nevertheless, the French continued to have some flourishing island colonies in the Caribbean Sea.

When the Thirteen Colonies rebelled against Britain in 1775, they had no regular army and no navy to speak of. As a result, they soon tried to form an alliance with

France in order to gain the support of its military forces, which were among the best and largest in Europe. The French monarchy, eager to take its revenge over the British in North America, thus supported – diplomatically and financially – the Continental Congress from the outset. Initially, however, the French refused to intervene militarily against Britain, being unsure about George Washington's ability to achieve final victory in the war. This changed after the Battle of Saratoga in the autumn of 1777, which proved that the Continental Army was strong and capable enough to face British regulars on the open field and defeat them. Before France declared war on Britain, many French volunteers went to North America and started to fight in the ranks of the Continental Army. The most important of these was the Marquis de La Fayette, who strove to convince the French monarchy to intervene in the American Revolution. Finally, thanks to the great efforts of the American ambassador in France, Benjamin Franklin, the Kingdom of France signed an important treaty of alliance with the newly established United States in March 1778 and entered the ongoing war. The French military contribution to the cause of the Thirteen Colonies was absolutely fundamental. Indeed, it was thanks to the arrival of the French Navy that the Continental Congress could finally achieve its first important victories at sea. French vessels transported large quantities of weapons and supplies to North America, which were essential for Washington's success. The French also despatched an expeditionary corps to the Thirteen Colonies, which consisted of well-equipped and trained regulars. These troops took part in several important engagements and played a fundamental role during the siege of Yorktown in 1781. The French also fought against the British in the Caribbean and in other areas of the world, including western Africa and India, where Britain and France had contrasting colonial interests.

The entrance of France into the American War of Independence had great diplomatic consequences, with the French gradually able to organize a European anti-British alliance that comprised Spain and the Netherlands. Spain was one of the greatest colonial powers of the late eighteenth century, controlling an immense American empire stretching from northern California to Buenos Aires in present-day Argentina. The Spanish colonies covered a vast area of the Americas, corresponding to the following modern nations: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Being a loyal and trusted ally of France for most of the eighteenth century, Spain entered the American Revolution against Great Britain in the hope of conquering further territories in North America. More than half of the present-day United States was already controlled by Spain in 1775. The northern portion of the Spanish Viceroyalty of New Spain (roughly corresponding to modern-day Mexico) comprised an area stretching from the Pacific shores of California in the

west to the Mississippi River in the east. Bernardo de Gálvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, actively supported the United States during the latter part of the American Revolution by attacking British territories in Florida, deploying substantial numbers of regular soldiers against the British. The Spanish authorities sent large quantities of supplies to the Thirteen Colonies across the Mississippi and also fought against the British in other theatres of operations. Spanish forces were particularly active against the British in Central and South America, as well as in Europe, where Spain besieged the British strongholds of Gibraltar and Menorca. Britain started to experience serious military difficulties after both France and Spain joined the United States in the war. The rebel colonists could thus now count on the decisive support of two of world's greatest powers. The Netherlands, meanwhile, had been a colonial rival of Britain since the early years of the seventeenth century, and had lost its colony in North America – known as New Netherlands – to the British. As a result, when both France and Spain started to fight against Britain, the Dutch government also decided to support the newly independent USA. The Netherlands had several island colonies in the Caribbean, as well as a larger territory on the northern coast of South America (Dutch Guyana). This meant the Dutch could play an important role in the conflict by providing naval support and supplies to the Thirteen Colonies. In 1781, the Fourth Anglo–Dutch War began and the Netherlands also joined the anti-British coalition. The Dutch mostly fought against the British in Europe, in the English Channel, but also further afield in southern Asia, where the Netherlands had its most important colony, the Dutch East Indies, corresponding to modern Indonesia.

Portugal, despite being a small country, controlled a large portion of South America that had been gradually colonized by Portuguese settlers since the early years of the sixteenth century. This region had progressively evolved into the colony of Brazil, which was extremely rich thanks to its flourishing plantations. The Portuguese military presence in Brazil was a substantial one, and Portugal also had a strong navy. Consequently, this minor European state played an important role in the world as a colonial power. The Portuguese had been loyal allies of England (and later of Great Britain) since the late Middle Ages. When the American Revolution began, they supported their traditional allies but did not enter the conflict. During 1776 and 1777, Portugal was at war with its neighbour, Spain, over possession of some border regions in South America. This local conflict was not part of the American Revolution, since at that time Spain was still neutral, but the fact that Britain supported Portugal against Spain was an important factor behind the Spanish decision to join France in the anti-British coalition that was organized a couple of years later. It is therefore possible to consider Portugal as an ally of Britain during the American War of Independence, despite the fact that Portuguese forces never fought against the United States throughout the course of the conflict.

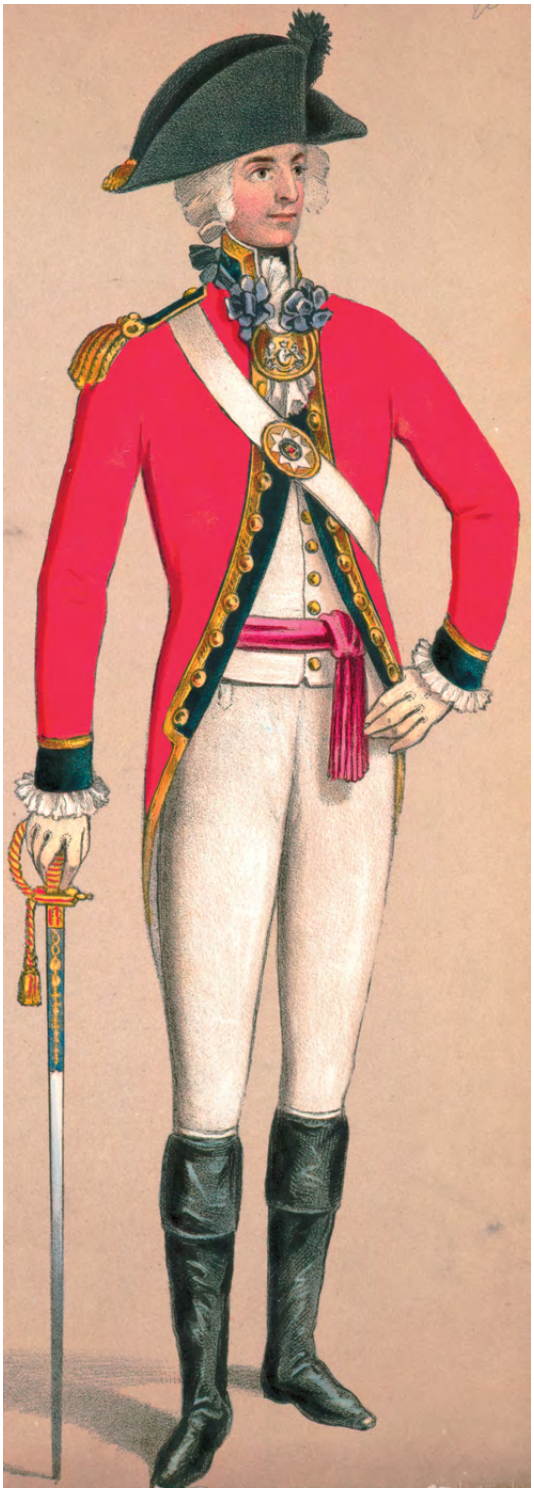
Chapter 1

The British Army in the Thirteen Colonies Before 1775

Until the outbreak of the French–Indian War in 1754, the British military presence in the American territories was extremely limited from a numerical point of view. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, for example, there were only four independent companies of infantry stationed in New York, whose members were all recruited from the local community and did not come from Britain. The scarce presence of British regulars in the American colonies was the result of several different factors. First of all, the British government had never considered the American colonies as important overseas territories. During the eighteenth century, India was much more flourishing than the American colonies from an economic point of view, and thus the British had no interest in spending large sums of money to garrison North America. In addition, it is important to bear in mind that most of the American colonies had a difficult relationship with the motherland. Those of Massachusetts and the other New England colonies had been created by Puritan communities who had abandoned 'Old England' in order to live according to their religious beliefs. In their motherland, they had been persecuted by the Church of England as dissenters and were treated as potentially dangerous religious extremists. In order to follow the moral laws contained in the Holy Bible and to avoid persecutions, thousands of Puritans had migrated to North America during the seventeenth century. In their new homeland, they lived in a very independent way, practicing commerce and agriculture with excellent results. They no longer considered themselves as subjects of the Crown and thus had no intention of paying heavy taxes or accepting the presence of royal garrisons on their territories. During the English Civil War, the colonies of New England had supported the Parliamentarian cause and later sustained Cromwell's Commonwealth. As a result, when monarchy was restored in England during 1660, they found themselves in a difficult political position. During the following decades, they resisted all attempts made by the monarchy to obtain direct control over the political and economic activities of their new homeland: these included projects to increase the religious influence of the Church of England over the North American colonies as well as plans to send some garrisons to the American territories. In 1686, in order to exert a larger influence over the territories of North America, English monarch James II ordered the unification of the four New England colonies (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and

New Hampshire) into a Dominion of New England. However, this entity was short-lived: when James II was replaced as King of England by William of Orange during the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the New Englanders rebelled against their pro-James governor and arrested him. These events, known as the Boston Revolt of 1689, anticipated the future American Revolution. After them, it became clear in London that the colonies of New England had no intention to accept any strict control exerted by the motherland.

In the other colonial territories of North America, however, the settlers had a different opinion of Britain. In Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas, the first colonial communities had not been created by religious dissenters like in New England, but by settlers who were loyal to the Crown and who contained a high percentage of Catholics. Consequently, especially in Virginia, which had been the first royal colony of North America, British political control was much more significant than in the New England territories. In 1676, however, something also started to change in Virginia, with the outbreak of a popular revolt commonly known as Bacon's Rebellion. This saw a clash between the Virginia militia and the royal governor of the colony, which ended only after several massacres and the arrival of an English regiment of regulars that was tasked with restoring order. Colonists



British musketeer officer of the Guard Brigade.

in Virginia had also started to develop some sense of national identity and began considering themselves as something different from their motherland. As a result of these events, 1676 can be considered a real turning point in American history: in New England, it saw the victory of the northern colonies against the natives during King Philip's War (achieved without receiving significant help from the British); in Virginia, it saw the first major American rebellion against England. All this happened exactly one century before the outbreak of the American Revolution.

During the seventeenth century, while the English colonies flourished on the Atlantic coast, the French settled Canada (at that time known as New France) and established themselves very firmly on North American soil. Differently from English settlers, who were in search of new lands on which to expand their agricultural activities, those from France were more interested in obtaining control over the local fur trade in Canada. At that time, Europe had an increasing demand for the hugh-quality furs coming from the woodlands of North America, meaning that the fur trade was an extremely lucrative activity. In order to obtain the best furs from the natives, the French established peaceful relations with them, which was aided by not depriving the native communities of their lands, as the English colonists did in the south. New France thus soon started to flourish commercially. Despite having a small population, it was quite strong militarily thanks to the treaties of alliance that were established with the various native tribes living in Canada. By the end of the seventeenth century, New France was ready to expand south and menace the territorial integrity of northern New England. To face this new threat, the English colonists had no choice but to improve their militia systems and accept a larger royal military presence on their territories. Between 1689 and 1748, the English-speaking colonies of North America fought three major conflicts against the French and their numerous native allies: King William's War (1689–97), Queen Anne's War (1702–13) and King George's War (1740–48). The names of these conflicts derived from the monarchs who ruled Britain when they broke out, but all were nothing other than the North American theatre of three major wars that ravaged Europe: the War of the Grand Alliance, the War of the Spanish Succession and the War of the Austrian Succession. They all ended without seeing significant changes in the political and military balance of power in North America, since the English-speaking colonies were never able to achieve a definitive victory over the French forces stationed in Canada. The key moment in the long struggle between Britain and France for control of North America came in 1754, when the French–Indian War broke out as part of the larger Seven Years' War that was fought primarily in Europe. By that time, the British colonial territories of North America had consolidated their political structures and were organized into thirteen independent entities, commonly known

as the Thirteen Colonies. Prior to 1754, there was a very meagre British military presence in North America. The only royal garrisons in the colonies were as follows:

New York: four independent companies of infantry, raised in 1694 and disbanded in 1763.

South Carolina: one independent company of infantry, made up of veteran soldiers, existed from 1721–36 in order to protect the colony from the incursions of the Spanish troops garrisoning Florida. Four independent companies of infantry were sent to Charlestown during the years of King George's War.

This state of affairs came to an end in 1754, when significant British regular forces started to be sent to the Americas in order to fight in the French–Indian War. It is interesting to note, however, that the British Army had already recruited several regiments in the Thirteen Colonies before 1754: Oglethorpe's 42nd Regiment of Foot, raised in Georgia during 1737 and disbanded in 1748; Gooch's 61st Regiment of Foot, raised from all the American colonies in 1740 and having a large establishment with four battalions. It was disbanded in 1746; Shirley's Regiment of Foot, raised in New England during 1745 to garrison the fortress of Louisbourg, captured from the French during King George's War. It was disbanded in 1749; Pepperell's Regiment of Foot, also raised in New England in 1745 to garrison the fortress of Louisbourg. It too was disbanded in 1749.

After the end of the French–Indian War, all the British military units that had fought against the French went back to Britain, but the political situation in the

British musketeer NCO of the Guard Brigade.

British grenadier of the Guard Brigade.

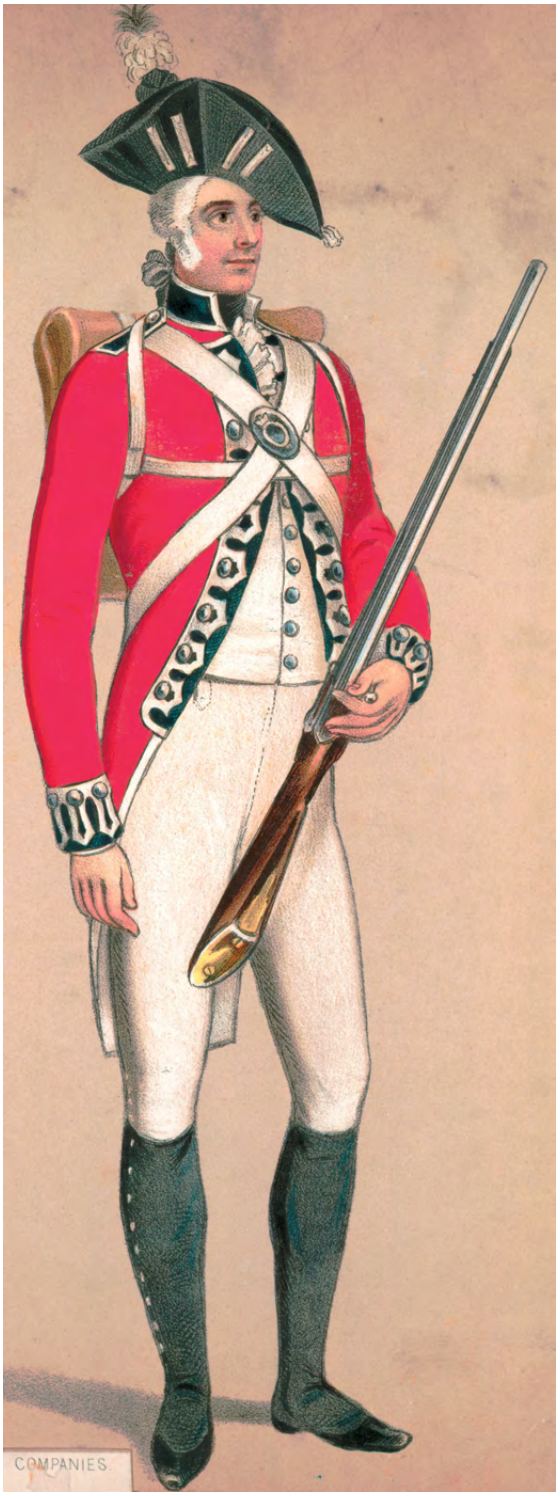
Thirteen Colonies soon became more tense. The local communities started to consider self-determination as the best alternative for their future development. Fearing that the outbreak of local revolts could cause unrest in the Thirteen Colonies, the British government sent two line infantry regiments to Boston in 1768: the 14th Regiment of Foot and the 29th Regiment of Foot, which were despatched together with one company of artillery. In 1769, these were supplemented by another two units, coming from Ireland: the 64th Regiment of Foot and the 65th Regiment of Foot. After a few months spent in Boston, however, the latter were transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia, which was the largest British military base in North America at that time. In 1770, the 14th Regiment of Foot and the 29th Regiment of Foot were the protagonists of the so-called Boston Massacre, as a result of which, the 29th Regiment was transferred to Florida in 1771 and the 14th Regiment was relieved by the 64th during the following year. During the spring and summer of 1774, tensions between the patriots and the royal authorities increased, leading to the arrival of more British regular units. By the beginning of 1775, the following corps were deployed in the Boston area: the 4th, 5th, 10th, 23rd, 35th, 38th, 43rd, 47th, 49th, 52nd, 59th, 63rd, 64th and 67th Regiments of Foot, 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons (without horses), five companies of artillery and 600 marines. In addition, there was the 18th Regiment of Foot in New York and the 65th Regiment of Foot in Halifax.

Chapter 2

British Guard Units

All major European armies of the late eighteenth century included a number of guard units, which made up an elite force within the military of each country. These could be small bodyguard corps, having as their main function escorting the monarch, or larger combatant units with superior training and morale. In Great Britain the Royal Guard had a very long tradition, comprising combat units with a special status and performing peculiar duties. The infantry component of the British Royal Guard consisted of three regiments: the 1st Foot Guards or Grenadier Guards, the 2nd Foot Guards or Coldstream Guards and the 3rd Foot Guards or Scots Guards. The 1st Foot Guard was created in 1665 through the merger of two infantry regiments that already had guard status and duties: Lord Wentworth's Regiment and John Russell's Regiment. Lord Wentworth's Regiment had been raised in 1656 by the future Charles II during his exile in the Spanish Netherlands (present-day Belgium), and initially consisted of professional soldiers who had followed the future monarch in exile and were loyal to the Stuarts. With the Restoration in 1660, the unit came back to England and became part of the reorganized English Army. John Russell's Regiment was created in 1660 after Charles II came back to England. It mirrored the functions and structure of Lord Wentworth's Regiment and soon became a duplicate of it. In 1665, it was decided to unite the two guard regiments into a single unit, which received the new denomination of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards. The unified unit adopted its famous nickname of Grenadier Guards only in 1815, following a Royal Proclamation that transformed the regiment into a grenadier corps. From the late seventeenth century, the military units defined as 'grenadiers' enjoyed a superior status, this denomination being peculiar of the heavy infantry corps and having special training and equipment.

The 2nd Foot Guards was created in 1650 as one of the infantry regiments that made up Cromwell's New Model Army. Initially known as Monck's Regiment of Foot, in 1660 it supported the Restoration of the Stuarts and made an epic march of five weeks from Coldstream (in Berwickshire) to London in order to support Charles II. Following this episode, it soon received the nickname of Coldstream Guards from the village where the elite infantrymen had started their march. After the Restoration, the regiment remained in London to keep order in the capital. In



British musketeer of the Guard Brigade.

1661, thanks to its loyalty towards Charles II, it received the new official denomination of The Lord General's Regiment of Foot Guards. Although the 2nd Foot Guards was older than the 1st Foot Guards, it was placed as the second senior regiment of the Household Troops because it had entered royal service after the Grenadier Guards (prior to 1661, it had formally been part of the New Model Army and not of the royal forces). To underline the fact that their corps was older than the 1st Foot Guard, members of the Coldstream Guards adopted as their regimental motto the phrase *Nulli Secundus* ('Second to None'). In 1670, the unit adopted its definitive name of Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards. The 3rd Foot Guards was the oldest of the three guard regiments, but was the last to enter English royal service, meaning it was placed as the third senior unit of the Household Troops. The regiment was created in 1642, as part of the Scots Army and not of the English one. Until 1707, Scottish military forces remained independent from their English equivalents because England and Scotland were two autonomous kingdoms. Charles I, as King of Scotland, ordered the formation of what was to become the 3rd Foot Guards in order to face the Irish Rebellion of 1641. The unit was raised by the Marquess

of Argyll, Archibald Campbell, and was initially known as the Marquis of Argyll's Royal Regiment. In 1650, when Charles II became King of Scotland following the execution of his father, the unit became a guard formation and adopted the new title of Lyfe Guard of Foot. In 1651, following Cromwell's victories over the supporters of Charles II, the Scots Guards were disbanded. They were re-formed only ten years later, after Charles II was restored to the English and Scottish thrones. Now known as the Scottish Regiment of Foot Guards, it was transferred onto the establishment of the English Army in 1686 and thus became part of the English Royal Guard, albeit being a Scottish corps. In 1712, after England and Scotland had been united into a single state in 1707, the Scots Guards were given their final denomination of the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards.

By 1775, the three regiments of Foot Guards had a different internal composition: the 1st Regiment comprised three battalions and was larger than the other two regiments, which had only two battalions each. The Grenadier Guards had received its third and additional battalion in 1760 as it was the senior corps of the Household Troops but also because it had been originally formed by merging together two independent infantry regiments. The 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment comprised two companies of grenadiers and eight companies of line infantry; the 2nd Battalion and the 3rd Battalion, instead, each had one company of grenadiers and eight companies of line infantry. As a result, the Grenadier Guards were a very large corps – a total of twenty-eight companies in three battalions. The two battalions of the Coldstream Guards had one company of grenadiers and eight companies of line infantry each, an internal organization shared by the two battalions of the Scots Guards. Each single company officially consisted of 100 men, but this standard establishment was respected only in some elite units like the three regiments of Foot Guards. Grenadiers had been present in European armies since the late seventeenth century and had always enjoyed a special status. The line companies were commonly known as battalion companies or hat companies, their members wearing the normal tricorn instead of the massive bearskin worn by the grenadiers. It was common practice to detach the grenadier companies of several battalions and assemble them together to form ad hoc temporary battalions of grenadiers. These were usually employed to perform specific duties, as happened quite frequently during the War of Independence.

When the American Revolution began, the British government decided to send a strong detachment of the Foot Guards to the Thirteen Colonies. This comprised a provisional regiment with thirty-three officers, eighty-seven NCOs, 960 soldiers and twenty-one musicians. The personnel for this temporary corps were selected by a draft from the three regiments of Foot Guards, with some fifteen men drafted from each of the three regiments' various companies. The provisional unit sent to

British grenadier drummer of the Guard Brigade.

North America was structured on ten companies: one of grenadiers, one of light infantry and eight of line infantry. The officers of the Foot Guards were probably the first in the British Army to understand the important role that light infantry would play on the broken terrain of the Thirteen Colonies. By training one of their companies in light infantry warfare, they notably increased the combat capabilities of their regiment. The grenadier company was the strongest, mustering 120 men, while the light infantry company had ninety-six privates and the eight battalion companies each comprised ninety-three soldiers. Once in New York, the ten companies of the provisional regiment – known as the Guard Brigade – were divided into two battalions: the first consisted of one company of grenadiers and four of line infantry, whereas the second comprised one company of light infantry and four of line infantry. The Guard Brigade participated in all the major engagements during the early phase of the War of Independence: Long Island, White Plains, Brandywine (where they invested the Continental infantry with a frontal charge) and Germantown. After these clashes, the Guards performed garrison duties for

almost two years in the New York area. British commanders always tried to preserve the integrity of the Guard Brigade, a very reliable corps of elite soldiers. Together with some other contingents of chosen troops, the guardsmen participated in several raids aimed at depriving the Continental Army of its supplies. On 16 October 1780, the Guard Brigade left the New York theatre of operations for Virginia, and on 15 March 1781 they fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, during which they attacked with enormous courage and suffered very heavy casualties. Besieged at Yorktown like the rest of the British forces that had operated in the southern colonies, the Guard Brigade surrendered on 19 October 1781. Its surviving members were all taken prisoner and returned to Britain only in 1783, when the American War of Independence came to an end.

As is clear from the above excursus, the British Foot Guards were not parade ground bodyguard troops but proper combat units, with a level of professionalism that was unrivalled in Europe. The backbone of the three regiments was the NCOs, professionals who were capable of training their men to the highest level. It was their duty to transform young recruits into battle-hardened veterans, preserving the traditions of their regiment. Obedience, endurance, loyalty and pride were the key factors behind the elite status of the foot guardsmen. Most of the common soldiers serving in the Foot Guard regiments came from the Militia and thus already had some experience of military life. Under guidance from the NCOs, they rapidly turned into professionals who were able to face any combat situation. Even more important than the NCOs were the officers, who gave the Foot Guard regiments their real and distinctive character. Most officers came from important aristocratic families of landowners, which had long military traditions. They were known as 'Gentlemen's Sons', but despite their many nicknames they showed on many occasions that their military competence was unrivalled and that they were not lacking in courage. Buying an officer's commission in the guard infantry regiments was extremely costly, meaning this was only available to the young sons of the aristocracy or the upper middle class. Daily life, in time of peace, was very expensive for such officers: it was spent in the most prestigious gentlemen's clubs of London, obliging them to invest large sums of money in order to have the most elegant uniforms and be part of high society.

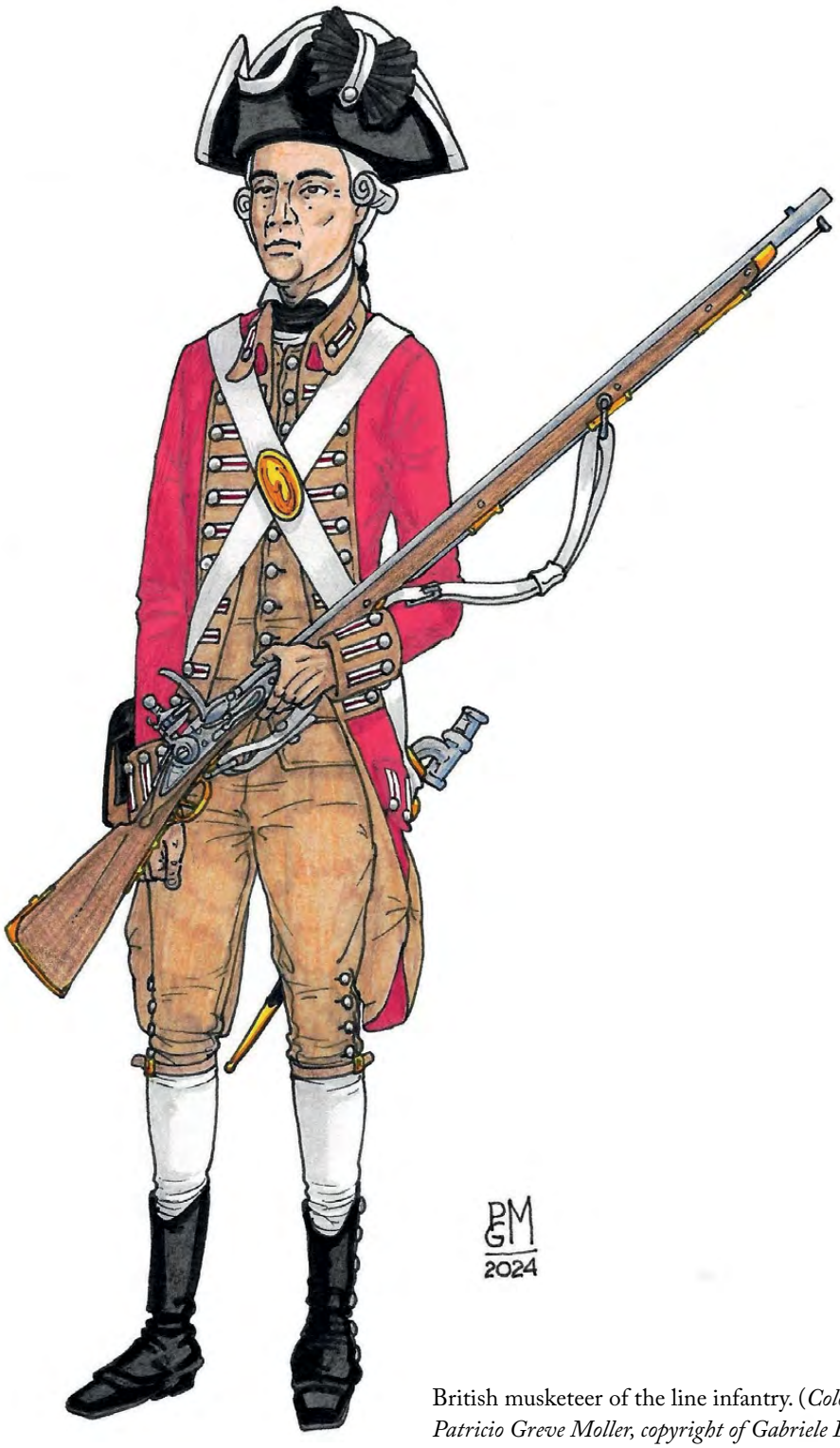
In addition to the three foot regiments, the British Royal Guard also included four units of horsemen that acted as the mounted bodyguard of the royal family and were considered to be the elite of the heavy cavalry. These were the 1st and 2nd Troops of Life Guards and the 1st and 2nd Troops of Horse Grenadiers. The history of the Life Guards began in 1658, when England and Scotland were still two autonomous realms ruled by the same monarch; as a result, they were originally part of the English Army. A 1st Troop of Life Guards was raised in 1658 as part

of the forces organized by Charles II during his exile in the Spanish Netherlands, where he decided to raise a chosen cavalry corps from his most loyal followers. During the same year, a 2nd Troop of Life Guards was established, with the official denomination of The Duke of York's Troop of Horse Guards. A 3rd Troop of Life Guards was added in 1659, commonly known as Monck's Lifeguards, deriving from the fact that this unit acted as the mounted bodyguard of George Monck, the main political supporter of Charles II during his period in exile. The members of the three Life Guard units were known as 'gentlemen', as they all came from the higher social classes of England and were required to provide their own horses and uniforms. In 1660, with the Restoration, Charles II returned to England and regained his throne. Consequently, the Life Guards were absorbed into the reorganized English Army and continued to act as the mounted bodyguard of the king. In 1678, one company of horse grenadiers was added to each troop of Life Guards, made up of ordinary soldiers rather than gentlemen. During the last quarter of the seventeenth century, the sue of horse grenadiers became widespread in European armies, together with their foot equivalents. Hand grenades were commonly used during pitched battles, also being employed to destroy enemy field fortifications. It soon became clear that the soldiers tasked with throwing hand grenades during battles had to receive specific training, and also had to be chosen from the tallest and fittest recruits of the various units. As a result, the best soldiers in each infantry company started to be trained and equipped in a specific way as grenadiers. Over time, these were assembled into independent companies or battalions, becoming a new component of European armies. Around 1670, the first corps of horse grenadiers started to appear in some armies. These were not truly cavalry units, as their members acted as mounted infantrymen: they used their horses to travel long distances but usually dismounted to fight. Indeed, it was practically impossible to throw hand grenades from horseback. With the addition of the three companies of horse grenadiers, the numerical establishment of the Life Guards became significantly larger. Although the gentlemen did not have a high opinion of their plebeian comrades, the latter provided important tactical support to the traditional cavalry thanks to their peculiar weaponry. In 1686 a 4th Troop of Life Guards, with an attached company of horse grenadiers, was raised by James II as part of a major expansion of the English Army.

In addition to the four units described above, which were all part of the English Army, there was also a Scottish corps of Life Guards, which was formed by Viscount Newburgh shortly after the Restoration of Charles II in 1661. A Scottish 2nd Troop of Life Guards was raised soon after the first, but this had a very short history, being disbanded in 1676. During James II's reign, Ireland also had an independent Troop of Life Guards, which had an attached company of grenadiers like their English

equivalent. This was quartered in Dublin and was to act as the mounted bodyguard of the king when he was in Ireland. With the outbreak of the Glorious Revolution and the landing of William of Orange in England, the internal organization of the Life Guards was changed in a significant way. The armies of England, Scotland and Ireland remained independent from each other, but the new English king rationalized their internal structure. The English 4th Troop of Life Guards, which had been recently formed by James II, was disbanded in 1689. During the following ten years, it was replaced by a foreign military unit from the Netherlands that was on English pay, the Garde du Corps. William of Orange was also the supreme ruler of the Netherlands, and the invasion force with which he landed in England was mostly made up of Dutch units. Being unsure of the loyalty of his new subjects, William retained several Dutch units on English pay long after the end of his Glorious Revolution. The Garde du Corps, also known as the 4th Troop of Life Guards, returned to their homeland in 1699. The Scottish Life Guards remained loyal to James II during the Glorious Revolution, and thus most of them resigned their military positions. William of Orange, however, soon reorganized the unit with new gentlemen who were loyal to his cause. The troop of Irish Life Guards was permanently disbanded since its members followed James II into exile and continued to serve the deposed monarch in France as part of his army in exile. In 1709, the English Army and the Scots Army were merged together in order to form the new British Army. The Scottish Life Guards were

British line infantry officer.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)



British musketeer of the line infantry. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

assembled with their English equivalents and became the new 4th Troop of Life Guards. Meanwhile, in 1693, the three troops of English horse grenadiers had been assembled into a single unit known as the Horse Grenadier Guards. These had the numerical establishment of a single troop but were completely independent from the gentlemen of the Life Guards. In 1702, a troop of horse grenadiers was raised in Scotland and attached to the Scottish Life Guards; when the latter became part of the British Army in 1709, it was detached from its mother corps and became an independent unit. As a result, the new British Army had a 1st Troop of Horse Grenadiers and a 2nd Troop of Horse Grenadiers in addition to the four troops of Life Guards. Since their foundation, the units of Life Guards had a distinctive heavy cavalry nature, and this was also gradually acquired by the troops of horse grenadiers, which abandoned the use of hand grenades and became ordinary heavy cavalry units. In 1746, the 3rd Troop of Life Guards and 4th Troop of Life Guards were disbanded following the outbreak of the Jacobite Rebellion that ravaged Scotland.

In addition to the Life Guards and Horse Grenadiers, the British cavalry comprised another elite unit which was not part (at least formally) of the Royal Guard but which performed a series of bodyguard functions in addition to being a proper combat corps: the Royal Horse Guards, commonly known as The Blues because of their distinctive dark blue uniforms. This unit had a completely different history from the Life Guards and Horse Guards. In 1650, while Oliver Cromwell was at the peak of his power, a heavy cavalry unit known as the Regiment of Cuirassiers was raised by Sir Arthur Haselrig. From the beginning, this corps had a distinct elite status and was mostly employed for escort and police duties, performing more or less the same main functions as the French Gendarmerie. With the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, the Regiment of Cuirassiers was transferred to Royal service and most of its officers (who were still loyal to the Parliamentarian cause) were replaced by new ones who were loyal to the Stuarts. The unit initially consisted of just three troops, whose members were mostly wealthy gentlemen. By the outbreak of the Glorious Revolution, however, it had eight troops and had received the new official name of The King's Regiment of Horse. Shortly before the outbreak of the Glorious Revolution, the corps received guard status, but when William of Orange disembarked in England its members abandoned James II and sided with the Dutch pretender to the English throne. During the early eighteenth century, the regiment continued to serve mostly as a police corps, garrisoning several areas of Britain and preventing the outbreak of local uprisings. In 1743, following Britain's involvement in the Austrian War of Succession that ravaged continental Europe, the unit fought with distinction at the Battle of Dettingen. The British forces that were sent across the English Channel to fight against France comprised, for the first time, a Household Brigade, made up

British grenadier of the line infantry. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

of elements from the Life Guards and the Horse Grenadiers as well as the future Royal Horse Guards (which at that time were still simply known by the name of their commanding colonel). At Dettingen, the Household Brigade showed great discipline and courage but could do little to determine the outcome of the battle. In 1745, The Blues participated in the Battle of Fontenoy, during which they suffered heavy casualties and could not prevent the defeat of the British forces. In 1750, The Blues received their new official denomination of the Regiment of Royal Horse Guards, with which they fought in the Seven Years' War. During this conflict, the unit distinguished itself in three important battles: Minden (1759), Warburg (1760) and Villinghausen (1761). When the regiment returned to Britain in 1763, at the end of the hostilities, it had lost most of its best elements due to the heavy casualties suffered and had to be completely reorganized. At that time, the mounted regiments of the British Army were structured on troops, two of which made up a squadron. The Royal Horse Guards had an internal establishment with six troops, assembled into three squadrons. Like all the other units of the British heavy cavalry, the Life Guards, Horse Grenadiers and Horse Guards did not participate in the hostilities of 1775–83.

Chapter 3

British Line Infantry

Line infantry regiments were the most numerous component of the British Army during the late eighteenth century, yet despite their official denomination as regiments they consisted of single battalions comprising nine companies of line infantrymen and one company of grenadiers. Only the 1st Regiment of Foot, the famous Royal Scots, was an exception to this general rule as it consisted of two battalions that always acted as independent units. Until 1742, British line regiments were known by the name of their commanding colonel, but from that year each of them received a progressive number that reflected the seniority of each unit. In time of war, the number of companies in each regiment could be increased with the formation of various additional companies, which were not intended to go on active service but to function as depots for recruits. Three of each regiment's companies were commanded by senior officers: one colonel (who also commanded the entire unit), one lieutenant colonel (second in command for the entire regiment) and one major. The major was a fundamental component of the unit, since he was responsible for the training and discipline of all the companies. The other seven companies were commanded by captains, and there was also a second captain who could substitute the colonel as company commander when he was absent. Each officer commanding a company was assisted by a lieutenant and an ensign; in the grenadier company, the latter was substituted by a second lieutenant. In addition to the company officers listed above, each regiment had another four commissioned staff officers: an adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon and chaplain. The quartermaster was the most important of these, performing a series of important practical functions such as keeping order in the ranks and supervising the construction of camps and field fortifications. Each company comprised three sergeants, three corporals and two drummers in addition to the seventy privates. The grenadier company had two extra fifers, while the colonel's company had five sergeants instead of three. The two additional NCOs were a sergeant major and quartermaster sergeant. The senior sergeant of each company also acted as pay sergeant and thus had an important administrative role. Each company also had a pioneer, a soldier specifically trained to act as a combat engineer. The ten pioneers of each regiment could be brought together into a single squad and were employed to build fortifications as well

as to remove any obstacle that could be encountered by their unit during the march. On campaign, most of the companies had less than seventy privates each, because it was not easy to replace losses very rapidly. The only exception to this rule was the grenadier companies, whose establishment was always kept stable. Very frequently, the single grenadier companies of various regiments could be detached from their original units in order to form temporary grenadier battalions, which were usually employed to conduct special operations. Grenadiers were hand-picked veterans with great combat experience and were chosen from the tallest and strongest men of each unit. What follows is the order of battle of the British line infantry in 1775, before the outbreak of hostilities in North America:

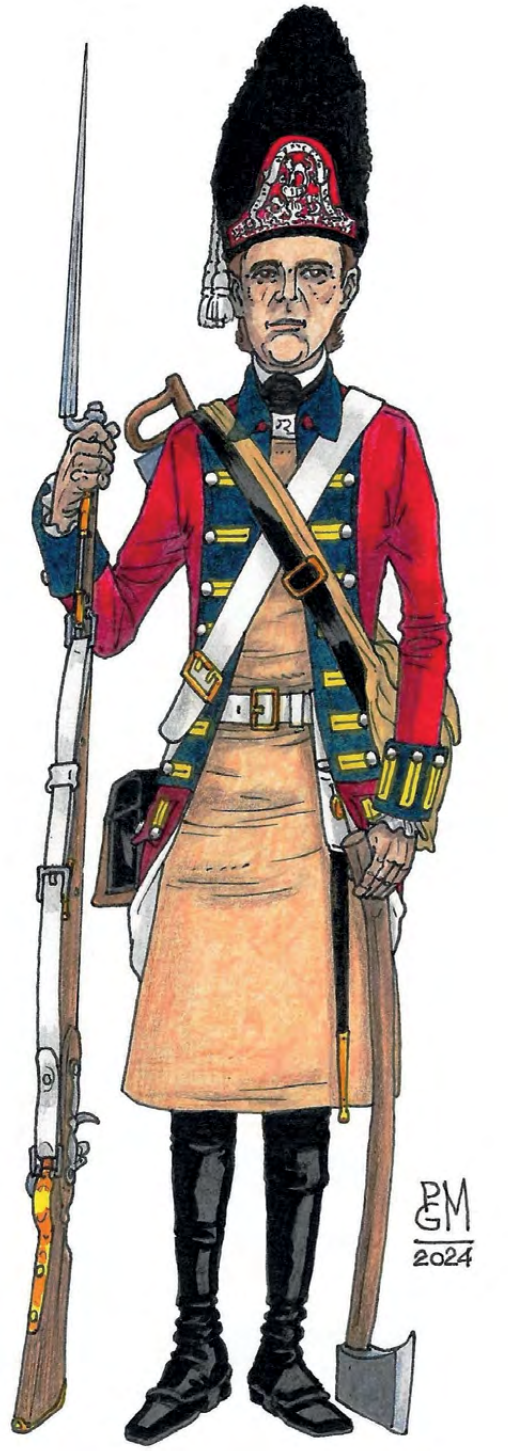
1st Regiment of Foot, The Royal Scots: raised in 1661, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

2nd Regiment of Foot, The Queen's Royal: raised in 1661, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

3rd Regiment of Foot, The Buffs: raised in 1672, it served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

4th Regiment of Foot, King's Own: raised in 1680, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

5th Regiment of Foot, Northumberland: raised in 1684, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.



British sapper of the line infantry. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

6th Regiment of Foot, 1st Warwickshire: raised in 1673, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

7th Regiment of Foot, Royal Fusiliers: raised in 1685, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

8th Regiment of Foot, The King's: raised in 1685, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

9th Regiment of Foot, East Norfolk: raised in 1685, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

10th Regiment of Foot, North Lincolnshire: raised in 1685, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

11th Regiment of Foot, North Devonshire: raised in 1685, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

12th Regiment of Foot, East Suffolk: raised in 1685, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

13th Regiment of Foot, 1st Somersetshire: raised in 1685, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

14th Regiment of Foot, Bedfordshire: raised in 1685, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

15th Regiment of Foot, Yorkshire East Riding: raised in 1685, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

16th Regiment of Foot, Buckinghamshire: raised in 1688, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

17th Regiment of Foot, Leicestershire: raised in 1688, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

18th Regiment of Foot, The Royal Irish: raised in 1684, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

19th Regiment of Foot, 1st Yorkshire North Riding: raised in 1689, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

20th Regiment of Foot, East Devonshire: raised in 1688, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

21st Regiment of Foot, Royal North British Fusiliers: raised in 1678, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

22nd Regiment of Foot, Cheshire: raised in 1688, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

23rd Regiment of Foot, Royal Welsh Fusiliers: raised in 1689, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

24th Regiment of Foot, 2nd Warwickshire: raised in 1689, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

25th Regiment of Foot, Sussex: raised in 1689, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

26th Regiment of Foot, Cameronian: raised in 1689, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

27th Regiment of Foot, Enniskillen: raised in 1689, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

28th Regiment of Foot, North Gloucestershire: raised in 1694, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

29th Regiment of Foot, Worcestershire: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

30th Regiment of Foot, Cambridgeshire: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

31st Regiment of Foot, Huntingdonshire: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

32nd Regiment of Foot, Cornwall: raised in 1702, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

33rd Regiment of Foot, 1st Yorkshire West Riding: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

34th Regiment of Foot, Cumberland: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

35th Regiment of Foot, Dorsetshire: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

36th Regiment of Foot, Herefordshire: raised in 1702, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

37th Regiment of Foot, North Hampshire: raised in 1702, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

38th Regiment of Foot, 1st Staffordshire: raised in 1705, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

39th Regiment of Foot, East Middlesex: raised in 1702, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

40th Regiment of Foot, 2nd Somersetshire: raised in 1717, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

41st Regiment of Foot, Royal Invalids: raised in 1719, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

42nd Regiment of Foot, Royal Highland: raised in 1739, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

43rd Regiment of Foot, Monmouthshire: raised in 1741, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

44th Regiment of Foot, East Essex: raised in 1741, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

45th Regiment of Foot, 1st Nottinghamshire: raised in 1741, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

46th Regiment of Foot, South Devonshire: raised in 1741, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

47th Regiment of Foot, Lancashire: raised in 1741, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

48th Regiment of Foot, Northamptonshire: raised in 1741, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

49th Regiment of Foot, Hertfordshire: raised in 1743, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

50th Regiment of Foot, West Kent: raised in 1755, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

51st Regiment of Foot, 2nd Yorkshire West Riding: raised in 1755, it did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

52nd Regiment of Foot, Oxfordshire: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

53rd Regiment of Foot, Shropshire: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

54th Regiment of Foot, West Norfolk: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

55th Regiment of Foot, Westmoreland: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

56th Regiment of Foot, West Essex: raised in 1755, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

57th Regiment of Foot, West Middlesex: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

58th Regiment of Foot, Rutlandshire: raised in 1755, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

59th Regiment of Foot, 2nd Nottinghamshire: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

60th Regiment of Foot, Royal American: raised in 1755, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

61st Regiment of Foot, South Gloucestershire: raised in 1756, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

62nd Regiment of Foot, Wiltshire: raised in 1756, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

63rd Regiment of Foot, West Suffolk: raised in 1756, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

64th Regiment of Foot, 2nd Staffordshire: raised in 1756, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

65th Regiment of Foot, 2nd Yorkshire North Riding: raised in 1756, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

66th Regiment of Foot, Berkshire: raised in 1756, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

67th Regiment of Foot, South Hampshire: raised in 1756, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

68th Regiment of Foot, Durham: raised in 1755, did not serve in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

69th Regiment of Foot, South Lincolnshire: raised in 1758, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

70th Regiment of Foot, Surrey: raised in 1758, served in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution.

In total, fifty-one out of seventy regiments of the British line infantry were sent to North America in the years 1775–83, which gives a good idea of how massive the military efforts of the Crown were from a quantitative point of view. All the units that fought in America had to adapt to a new combat environment but soon learned from experience. During the conflict, several new regiments were recruited, some of which had a quite peculiar history:

71st Regiment of Foot: known as Fraser's Highlanders, raised at Inverness and Glasgow. Consisted of two battalions, which were transformed into two independent units during 1782. The regiment was disbanded in 1786.

72nd Regiment of Foot: known as the Royal Manchester Volunteers, raised in Manchester and served as part of Gibraltar's garrison before being disbanded in 1783.

British private of a light infantry company. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

73rd Regiment of Foot: originally raised as the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Regiment of Foot. Sent to India and became an autonomous unit in 1786.

74th Regiment of Foot: known as the Argyllshire Highlanders, raised in Argyllshire. After serving in the Thirteen Colonies, the regiment was disbanded in 1784.

75th Regiment of Foot: known as the Prince of Wales' Regiment, raised in Wales but sent only a few officers to America before being disbanded in 1783.

76th Regiment of Foot: known as MacDonald's Highlanders, raised in the Western Isles of Scotland. The regiment was a composite corps comprising seven companies of Highlanders, two companies of lowlanders and one company of Irishmen. After serving in the Thirteen Colonies, it was disbanded in 1784.

77th Regiment of Foot: known as the Atholl Highlanders, raised in Perthshire. Served in Ireland until being disbanded during 1783.

78th Regiment of Foot: known as the Seaforth Regiment, raised in the Western Highlands. Served in India and not in the Thirteen Colonies.

79th Regiment of Foot: known as the Royal Liverpool Volunteers, raised in Liverpool. The regiment served in the West Indies before being disbanded in 1784.

80th Regiment of Foot: known as the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. Served in the Thirteen Colonies before being disbanded in 1783.

81st Regiment of Foot: known as the Aberdeenshire Highland Regiment. Remained on garrison duties in the British Isles before being disbanded in 1783.

82nd Regiment of Foot: raised in Lanarkshire, it was sent to the Thirteen Colonies and was disbanded in 1784.

83rd Regiment of Foot: known as the Royal Glasgow Volunteers. Served in the Thirteen Colonies until being disbanded in 1783.

84th Regiment of Foot: initially raised as a Loyalist unit, the Royal Highland Emigrants. See the chapter on the Provincials/Loyalists for more details.

85th Regiment of Foot: known as the Westminster Volunteers. Served in the West Indies before being disbanded during 1783.

86th Regiment of Foot: known as the Rutland Regiment. Served in the West Indies before being disbanded in 1783.

87th Regiment of Foot: raised in Worcestershire and served in the West Indies before being disbanded during 1783.

88th Regiment of Foot: raised in Worcestershire, it served in the West Indies before being disbanded during 1783.

89th Regiment of Foot: raised in Worcestershire and served in the West Indies before being disbanded in 1783.

90th Regiment of Foot: raised in Yorkshire, it served in the West Indies before being disbanded during 1783.

91st Regiment of Foot: raised in Shropshire and served in the West Indies before being disbanded in 1784.

92nd Regiment of Foot: served in the West Indies before being disbanded during 1783.

93rd Regiment of Foot: served in the West Indies before being disbanded during 1783.

94th Regiment of Foot: served in the West Indies before being disbanded in 1783.

95th Regiment of Foot: raised in 1779, it garrisoned southern Britain in view of a French attack until being disbanded in 1783.

96th Regiment of Foot: raised in 1779, it garrisoned southern Britain in view of a French attack before being disbanded in 1784.

97th Regiment of Foot: raised in 1779, it garrisoned southern Britain in view of a French attack until being disbanded in 1783.

98th Regiment of Foot: raised in 1780 and served in India until being disbanded in 1785.

99th Regiment of Foot: raised in 1780, it served in the West Indies before being disbanded in 1783.

100th Regiment of Foot: known as the Loyal Lincolnshire Regiment, it was raised in Ireland and sent to India. The regiment was disbanded in 1785.

101st Regiment of Foot: raised in Ireland and served in India until being disbanded in 1785.

102nd Regiment of Foot: raised in Ireland, it served in India until being disbanded in 1785.

103rd Regiment of Foot: known as the King's Irish Infantry. Served in Ireland before being disbanded in 1784.

104th Regiment of Foot: raised in 1782, it garrisoned southern Britain in view of a French attack until being disbanded in 1783.

105th Regiment of Foot: initially raised as a Loyalist unit, the Volunteers of Ireland. See the chapter on the Provincials/ Loyalists for more details.

The new infantry regiments listed above belonged to five different categories: Scottish regiments raised for service in North America, regiments raised for garrisoning the British West Indies, regiments raised for garrisoning southern Britain, regiments raised for service in India and former Loyalist corps that were converted into regular units. By the end of the eighteenth century, the islands collectively known as the West Indies, located in the Caribbean, were one of the most profitable areas of the world for colonization. Having long since been colonized by the European powers, they produced large amounts of sugar that was sold around the globe at very high prices. In addition, albeit on a smaller scale, they produced other very profitable crops like indigo and coffee. Several of these islands were colonies of Great Britain, representing about one-third of the country's foreign trade. Thanks to the direct taxes and duties coming from its Caribbean colonies, Britain was able to

British officer of a light infantry company. Note the absence of the frontal lapels on the coat and the latter's short tails. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

become the most important of the colonial powers during the eighteenth century. It was thus absolutely fundamental for the Crown to effectively protect such a lucrative portion of the ever-expanding British Empire. This became particularly true when, upon the outbreak of the American Revolution, the British West Indies started to be exposed to the attacks by the newly born Continental Navy, and later also by French warships sailing in the Caribbean. Operating in the West Indies was not a simple undertaking for the British Army. The region's tropical climate was unsustainable for European troops, who were frequently decimated by terrible local diseases such as tropical fevers. Despite this, Britain's islands/colonies in the area were strongly garrisoned between 1775 and 1783. When France formed an alliance with the United States and entered the war against Great Britain, the southern coast of England and the Channel Islands in the English Channel became exposed to the threat of French invasion and thus needed to be protected by regular units for the duration of the conflict. During the years of the American Revolution, Britain was also involved in a large-scale conflict that was fought in India, the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780–84), which saw significant participation by British regular troops. At that time, British possessions in India were not under the direct control of the Crown but of the British East India Company. Nonetheless, when needed, the British government was always ready to support the East India Company with substantial numbers of professional soldiers in order to deal with serious military threats.

Musketeer of the 42nd Highlanders. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

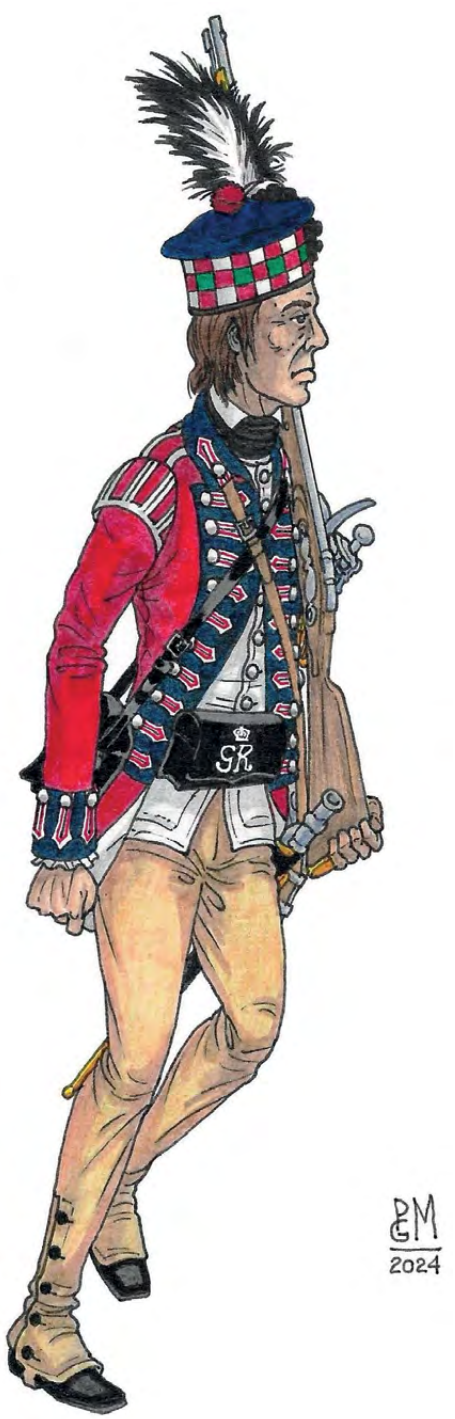
Grenadier of the 42nd Highlanders. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

Chapter 4

Highland Infantry

The Scottish regiments were a fundamental component of the English infantry even before the creation of Great Britain. It should be remembered that five important units of the English Army were already recruited from Scotland before 1707, the year during which the Scots Army was melded with the English Army: the 3rd Foot Guards, the 1st Regiment of Foot, the 21st Regiment of Foot, the 25th Regiment of Foot and the 26th Regiment of Foot. All these units were recruited from the Scottish Lowlands, not from the Highlands. For this reason they wore, from the outset, the same uniforms as the English line infantrymen, making their members practically indistinguishable from the latter. While the Lowlands had always been strongly linked to England and had accepted English rule, the Highlands were very jealous of their freedom and did not accept union with England. The Highlanders, admired as the best fighters in the British Isles, rose up against the English several times during the eighteenth century, which precluded the military authorities of Great Britain from raising regular military units from them. This situation started to change only after the crushing of the 1745 Jacobite Uprising, which was the last great rebellion of the Highlanders. Over time, it was possible to form several regiments of Highlanders that soon became recognized as elite units within the British Army. Wearing their own traditional uniforms and having their own peculiar denominations, these regiments were completely different from the other Scottish units raised from the Lowlands. By 1775, the following seven Scottish regiments were part of the British line infantry: 3rd Foot Guards (Lowlanders); 1st Foot Regiment, Royal Scots (Lowlanders); 21st Foot Regiment, Royal North British Fusiliers (Lowlanders); 25th Foot Regiment, King's Own Scottish Borderers (Lowlanders); 26th Foot Regiment, Cameronians (Lowlanders); 42nd Foot Regiment, Royal Highland (Highlanders); 70th Foot Regiment, Glasgow Lowland (Lowlanders).

The units of Lowlanders had the same history as their English equivalents, but the 42nd Regiment of Foot had a very different one. After the Jacobite Rising of 1715, the British Army did not have enough resources to leave a strong garrison force in the Highlands to control the territory, so it was forced to keep order among the Highlanders by recruiting men from the local clans that were loyal to the British Crown. These new soldiers were deployed mostly as rural policemen, dealing with



Private from the light infantry company of the 42nd Highlanders. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

cattle rustling and the other crimes that were typical of the Highlands during the eighteenth century. In 1725, the first units of 'loyal' Highlanders were raised, these being known as the Independent Highland Companies. The officers of these corps were commissioned by the British Army, while their men had a semi-regular status and could not be considered as proper soldiers. Independent Highland Companies had previously existed during the seventeenth century but had been disbanded in 1717; by reforming them, the British government hoped to maintain peace in the northern regions of Scotland. Initially only three companies, with little more than 100 men each, were raised. Three further companies, each comprising about seventy men, were subsequently established. One company was recruited from members of Clan Munro, one from members of Clan Fraser of Lovat, one from members of Clan Grant and three from Clan Campbell. Collectively, the six companies were known as the Black Watch because of the dark colour of the tartan with which their kilts were made. In 1739, another four companies were added to the corps, bringing the total to ten. During that same year, these were assembled together to form the 42nd Foot Regiment of the line infantry (which was the first Highland regular unit to enter British service). When the Jacobite Rising of 1745 broke out, the regiment was fighting in Europe as part of Britain's participation in the War of Austrian Succession. As a result, three additional companies were formed for

service in Scotland and fought against the Jacobites until being disbanded in 1748.

Meanwhile, to suppress the Jacobite Rising of 1745, the British government had ordered the raising of eighteen new Independent Highland Companies to replace those that had been transformed into the 42nd Regiment. After the Jacobite Rising was crushed, the eighteen new companies were disbanded and never re-formed. During the following decades, the 42nd Foot Regiment took part in all the most important military campaigns fought by the British Army, including the Seven Years' War (in North America) and the American War of Independence. Generally speaking, the Highlanders were excellent soldiers: they could be less disciplined than their English equivalents, but their courage and fitness were unrivalled. They could defend a position to the last man and were extremely proud of their regimental traditions. On many occasions they were able to achieve success albeit being in clear numerical inferiority and their morale was usually very high. The Highlanders were used to living in a poor and rocky countryside, where conditions were extremely harsh, as a result of which they could endure hardships of any kind while on campaign and could live for days with very little food. They were able to move very rapidly on every kind of terrain, meaning they had excellent skirmishing abilities. In combat, the Highlanders used their bayonets much more frequently than their English equivalents, as their fighting spirit was still that of the ancient Celtic warriors. When needed, however, they could deliver very accurate fire upon the enemy

British trooper of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

ranks. Due to all these features, the Highlanders were perfect fighters for the conflict that took place in North America. The 42nd Regiment had already shown its valour during the French–Indian War and later during Pontiac's War against dissatisfied native Americans, so it was soon chosen for service in the Thirteen Colonies against the rebels. As a result of the Black Watch's operational success, several new Scottish regiments were established during the years 1775–83 for service in North America: the 71st Foot, 73rd Foot, 74th Foot, 76th Foot, 77th Foot, 78th Foot, 80th Foot, 81st Foot, 82nd Foot and 83rd Foot. Seven of these ten regiments spent a period of service in the Thirteen Colonies, and eight were considered as Highland units. From an organizational point of view, the Scottish regiments had exactly the same structure of the English ones; their musicians, however, played bagpipes instead of drums.

British officer of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons.

Chapter 5

British Light Infantry and Colonial Rangers

During the first seven decades of the eighteenth century, the line infantry was the most important component of European armies, making up the bulk of the troops mobilized by the various nations and having acquired a certain tactical superiority over cavalry. Highly trained and well-disciplined, the line infantry consisted of fusiliers who were able to march and manoeuvre in perfect order by maintaining shoulder-to-shoulder close formations. While moving on the battlefield, line infantrymen advanced in columns; when stopping to open fire upon the enemy, they were deployed into long lines. After some rolling volleys of musketry were exchanged between the opposing infantry formations, a clash could continue in two different ways: on most occasions, one of the two lines was shattered by the enemy fire and decided to retreat (usually keeping order among the ranks and readopting column formation); sometimes, however, it was necessary to fight hand-to-hand with bayonets to determine the outcome of the battle. Keeping order in the formations and delivering a regular fire were the key factors behind victory, so training was absolutely decisive to transform line infantry into an effective tactical tool. Generally speaking, battles were extremely static, since maintaining perfect order in the formations obliged the infantrymen to move very slowly. The transition from column formation to line was an extremely delicate one, as it exposed the infantrymen to sudden charges of cavalry. When confronting mounted troops, line infantry usually adopted a standard defensive formation known as the square: this was another kind of close order, which had long been employed with the aim of stopping enemy attacks by using the bayonets as 'pikes' against cavalry.

The formations and tactics described above were determined by the performances of the muskets that were used during the eighteenth century, flintlock weapons with a complicated loading procedure. This meant that only one or two shots could be fired in a minute, even by line infantrymen with good training. Furthermore, the flintlock muskets of this period were all smoothbore weapons, making them extremely inaccurate. When a ball was fired, it came out of the musket without any precise direction, as there were no grooves inside the barrel that could keep it on target. A flintlock musket was of use only when fired some 100–200 metres from the target, meaning that during a battle, the line infantry formations had to come very

close together in order to use their weapons with some degree of effectiveness. The muskets of this age were also extremely heavy, which limited the mobility of the foot soldiers. When moving on broken terrain, for example covered with rocks or trees, it was practically impossible for them to keep close formations in order. All the main tactical formations had been created for use on an ideal battlefield, consisting of a large plain where the opposing infantries could move without encountering obstacles. In this military system, soldiers were not required to think and act in an autonomous way: they only had to move like clockwork toys in order to put into practice the orders they received. There was no space for initiative, with each infraction of discipline immediately punished with very harsh methods. The evolutions required on the battlefield were repeated every day during training sessions, under the incessant beat of the drums. A perfect example of the kind of war that was fought in the eighteenth century was that involving the Prussian Army of Frederick the Great, which perfected close-order infantry tactics and was admired by all the officer corps of Europe. Frederick's infantrymen were the best in the European sphere, and their methods of training were copied by all other armies, whether they be enemies or allies. During the War of Austrian Succession (1740–48) and the Seven Years' War (1756–63), however, some battles highlighted that the Prussian line infantry were not as perfect as it may seem. It became apparent that they could experience serious problems while operating on broken terrain and when fighting against enemy units that employed hit-and-run guerrilla tactics. In particular, the Prussians struggled to deal with the efficient light troops deployed by the Austrian Empire, which consisted of semi-regular light infantrymen recruited from the inhabitants of the Balkans.

The light infantrymen of the Austrian Army had been fighting for decades against the Ottoman Turks on the southern frontier of the Austrian Empire. The two sides lived in a state of endless conflict, during which both often launched rapid incursions into the territory of the enemy for the purpose of pillaging. Gradually, the Austrian frontier soldiers had learned to fight like their enemies, becoming expert in the art of skirmishing and scouting. Their usual area of operations was covered by mountains and woods, where each soldier had to move individually rather than in column or line formation. Most of these soldiers were excellent huntsmen in their civilian life and were also farmers, living on the Balkan frontier as military settlers. Their innovative tactics derived from hunting and were based on the principle of open formation. Each soldier advanced independently, but maintaining contact with the other members of his unit, keeping cover behind natural obstacles such as trees and firing upon the enemy from a favourable position. On several occasions, the Austrian light infantrymen caused serious troubles and losses to Frederick the Great's perfect line infantry. Initially, their novel tactics caused them to be considered as simple

British trooper of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons.

murderers by the more traditionalist of their enemies, but during the course of the Seven Years' War it became apparent that they could play a very important role on the battlefield. Unlike Austria, the other great powers of Europe had no militarized border from which expert light infantry fighters could be recruited, but they started

Officer of the Royal Artillery.

to create their own light infantry corps from the best hunters and gamekeepers in their homelands. These new units soon assumed the denomination of Chasseurs or Jagers, terms meaning, in French and German respectively, 'huntsmen'. Members of these units were usually dressed in green, as were most contemporary civilian hunters, and also like them they communicated with horns rather than the drums employed by line infantry. During the Seven Years' War, dozens of new light corps were raised in France and Prussia, following the Austrian example. These proved highly efficient on campaign, confirming the arrival of a new branch of the infantry. As we will see, Great Britain sent several units of jagers provided by its German allies to fight in the Thirteen Colonies, as well as a single corps of Balkan skirmishers.

The Seven Years' War was also fought in the New World, with clashes between the British and French colonies in North America. However, the tactical situation of the armies here was completely different from that in Europe, some form of local light infantry having already existed for about century. The terrain of the British Thirteen Colonies, as well as that of French Canada (New France), was mostly covered with dense forests and was inhabited by native communities whose warriors all fought as lightly armed and highly mobile skirmishers. Colonial warfare consisted of rapid raids and incursions launched across the frontier, exactly as on the southern border of the Austrian Empire. As a result, each British or French colonist/farmer was also a militiaman with great skirmishing capabilities. In order to survive, each settler had to learn hunting in the forests and fighting against the natives by using their same methods. In 1675, the first great war in the history of Colonial America was fought between English colonists and native tribes. This conflict is commonly known as King Philip's War, from the nickname that the colonists gave to their main native opponent. a great leader whose real name was Metacomet. The war consisted of a major native insurgency that took place on the borders of the English colonies, which it was feared could potentially lead to the expulsion of the whites from that part of North America. Using hit-and-run guerrilla tactics, the native warriors of Metacomet caused many losses to the colonial militia and destroyed a large number of English settlements. Learning from experience, however, the colonial authorities understood that they had to create a light infantry corps that could oppose the native attacks by using the same tactics as their opponents. Command of this new experimental unit was given to Benjamin Church, a settler with great combat experience. Members of the new corps, consisting of a single company, were known as rangers. During the second half of the conflict, Benjamin Church's men obtained a series of victories over the natives and finally killed Metacomet during a skirmish in the woods, a key factor behind the final victory of the colonists.

After 1675, all the colonies of North America started to have their own chosen units of rangers, which were deployed on the frontier with the native territories: light infantry was thus born in the New World. What had been achieved in North America, however, was not learned in Europe. No English troops had participated in King Philip's War, meaning that Benjamin Church's innovations did not reach Europe. At that time, the American Colonies were considered a secondary theatre of operations, a situation that did not change until the outbreak of the French–Indian War. It should be noted, however, that most of the new ranger units raised in the American Colonies after 1675 were rangers in the true sense of the word, not elite skirmishers like those commanded by Benjamin Church. Their main task was to patrol the countryside of their colonies, especially the areas bordering with native lands. Quite frequently, these frontier rangers were mounted, thus acting as a sort of police rather than proper soldiers. Benjamin Church's rangers of 1675–76 consisted of 200 volunteers assembled into an independent company, sixty of whom were colonists and the remainder friendly natives. The latter trained their white companions and transmitted to them all the skills relating to bush fighting. Church was an experienced scout and woodland fighter, who understood that the only way to obtain decisive victories against hostile natives was to fight using the same tactics as your opponents. His company of rangers, was created to penetrate deep inside enemy territory in order to conduct retaliatory raids or gather intelligence about the movements of the natives. Church's men were all equipped as light infantrymen, like their native opponents. They wore comfortable moccasins in order to walk or run rapidly in the woods, and were armed with hatchets for hand-to-hand fighting against native warriors carrying tomahawks. They journeyed on horseback when possible and were also trained to move on water by canoe. All rangers were excellent marksmen and were able to reload their muskets very rapidly. During King William's War and Queen Anne's War, the independent company of rangers guided by Benjamin Church was re-formed, but it remained a temporary corps and was definitively disbanded after Church's retirement from military service. Between 1710 and 1713, another short-lived unit of rangers, made up of friendly Mohawk natives commanded by two white officers, was created to garrison Port-Royal in Nova Scotia. It was not until 1744, however, that another unit of rangers in the true sense of the word was formed.

In that year, three small companies of Nova Scotia Rangers, each with sixty men, were raised in Massachusetts and sent to Nova Scotia in order to reinforce the local garrison, which was exposed to frequent attacks by local native tribes, who were loyal allies of the French. Nova Scotia had previously been part of the French dominions of North America, with the name of Acadia, and the French nurtured ambitions of

reconquering it. On the border of Nova Scotia were several Jesuit missions, which the French used as bases to coordinate the raids of their native allies against the English settlements. The Nova Scotia Rangers were specifically created to face the menace represented by the French and their native allies. They soon became known

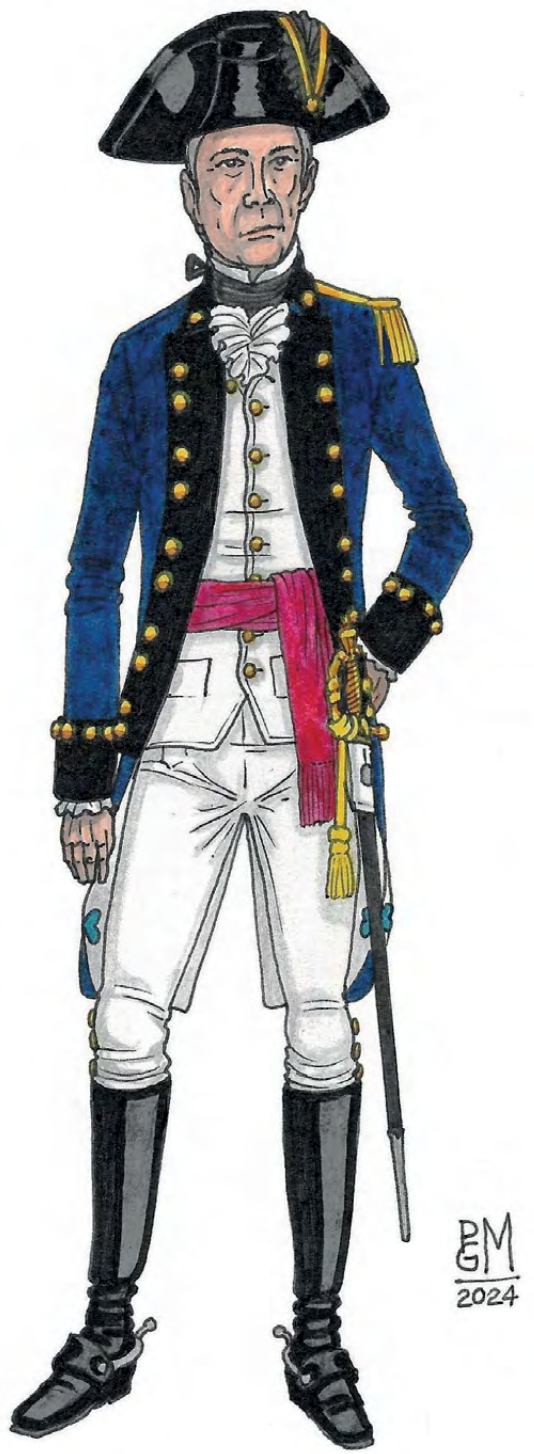
Gunner of the Royal Artillery. He is wearing a black leather helmet instead of the more usual tricorn. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

as Goreham's Rangers, from the name of their skilful commander. Most members of these three companies were Mohawks or individuals of mixed blood, who knew how to fight in the difficult environment of Nova Scotia. The original three companies were soon reduced to just one, which had a larger establishment with 130 rangers and eight officers. Goreham's Rangers served with distinction during the French–Indian War, being made part of the British Army's regular establishment with the new denomination of North American Rangers. Goreham's men were the first rangers to receive this honour in the military history of Colonial America. The corps was also expanded to two companies, with one garrisoned in Nova Scotia and another in New Brunswick. With the end of the French–Indian War in 1763, the North American Rangers were disbanded.

In 1755, after the outbreak of the French–Indian War, the most famous unit of colonial rangers was formed in New Hampshire: Rogers' Rangers. These originated from a single company that was detached from one of the ordinary militia regiments in order to perform scouting duties, which was commanded by Captain Robert Rogers. By the spring of 1756, the new unit had already shown its great potential and consisted of one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three sergeants and sixty rangers. Rogers' Rangers were formally a Provincial unit that was re-enlisted every year; differently from the other Provincials, however, they were paid by the British government. During 1756, the corps was greatly expanded, with the formation of another four companies (one of which was entirely made up of friendly Stockbridge natives). At the beginning of 1757, the internal composition of each company was increased as follows: one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, four sergeants and 100 rangers. During 1757, the number of companies was increased to nine. The rangers were so effective in their scouting operations that their commander, Robert Rogers, was ordered to train one company of British regulars (all volunteers) just like he did his own rangers. In 1758, another six companies of rangers, paid by the British Crown, were raised in New England; two of these were made up of friendly Stockbridge natives. In November 1760, with the fall of French Canada, all the companies of rangers returned to New England and were disbanded, except for two that continued to serve until 1761. Thanks to the military events of 1754–60, the British government understood that some corps of rangers were definitely needed in North America in order to counter the initiatives of the native tribes. As a result, in 1762, Captain Joseph Hopkins was ordered to raise a new corps of rangers from Maryland and Pennsylvania. This new unit, which was known as the Queen's Royal American Rangers, was placed on the regular establishment of the British Army. It consisted of two officers and 100 men, thus having the numerical consistency of a company. The Queen's Royal American Rangers played a prominent role during

Pontiac's Rebellion, which commenced shortly after Canada was included in the British colonial possessions. Most of the native tribes that fought alongside the French during the French–Indian War had no intention of accepting British rule over their lands. The new corps of rangers was disbanded at the end of 1763; the last true ranger unit to be formed in North America until the beginning of the American Revolution.

The light infantry revolution caused by the French–Indian War, however, did not see only the formation of colonial ranger units, as it also affected very deeply the structure of the British line infantry. In 1756, the British government decided to create the first regular light infantry unit of the British Army, a step largely taken as a result of the disastrous defeat suffered by the British line infantry in 1754 at the Battle of Monogahela. The latter saw the ambush of 1,300 British soldiers by a smaller force of French and natives, who annihilated their opponents. The British contingent included line infantrymen from the 44th Foot and 48th Foot, in addition to Provincial soldiers of the Virginia Regiment commanded by the young George Washington. The clash was a disaster for the British, who lost over 450 men during the ambush and proved unable to deal effectively with the enemy skirmishing tactics. The new light infantry unit created after the Battle of Monogahela was initially known as the 62nd Regiment of Foot



Officer of the Royal Engineers. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

'Royal American', only adopting its definitive progressive number (60th) at a later date. Approval for the raising of the new regiment as well as the necessary funds was granted by the British Parliament in late 1755. The new unit comprised four battalions with 1,000 soldiers each, and its main function was to counter the raids launched by the French and their native allies against the settlements of the Thirteen Colonies. The regiment was recruited from colonists who already had experience of light infantry tactics as well as foreigners who had hunting capabilities. In particular, the British Army was interested in recruiting German hunters and gamekeepers like those who were already serving in the light corps of the Austrian and French armies. To allow such experienced personnel to be used, the Parliament passed the Commissions to Foreign Protestants Act in 1756 that permitted the recruiting of foreign officers from German states and Swiss cantons. These could be employed in the new 62nd Foot, but could not rise above the rank of lieutenant colonel. In total, some fifty officers of the regiment came from Germany or Switzerland, although overall command of the unit was given to General John Campbell, at that time commander-in-chief of the British Army in North America.

The original idea behind the formation of the new unit came from Jacques Prevost, a Swiss soldier and adventurer who was a personal friend of the Duke of Cumberland, second son of King George II. Prevost was an expert in forest warfare and was one of the first to understand the combat potential of light infantry. In general terms, the Royal American Regiment united the main features of a provincial (colonial) corps with those of foreign mercenaries, merging the light infantry traditions of North America (rangers) with those of Central Europe (jagers). All members of the unit were Protestants, a decision made because their direct opponents would be French Catholics. Curiously, the Royal American Regiment was the first British unit to have foreign officers, but did not have any officer from the American colonies. In February 1757, the corps became the 60th Foot, after two line regiments were disbanded. The foreign officers of the regiment included two notable personalities: Henri Bouquet (who commanded the 1st Battalion) and Frederick Haldimand (who commanded the 2nd Battalion). Both these Swiss professionals made a great contribution to the development of light infantry doctrine within the British Army. Their forward-looking ideas included the introduction (unofficial for the moment) of rifled muskets among the rankers. These new weapons, which had long barrels and spiral grooves in the bore, had started to be produced on a small scale during the early eighteenth century. They had become popular in the American colonies thanks to the German gunsmiths who emigrated to the New World and brought these new muskets with them. Thanks to their superior precision, the rifles were an ideal weapon for hunting and fighting in the woods of North America, and they were gradually adopted as

personal weapons by all the colonists/militiamen of the Thirteen Colonies. For a long time, however, this superior kind of flintlock musket was not adopted by the armies of Europe and continued to be used only for hunting. During the Seven Years' War, some of the newly formed light corps of the European armies started to use rifled carbines, more or less at the same time that a number of soldiers from the Royal American Regiment began substituting their smoothbores with rifled muskets. The production costs of the latter were still quite high, but using such a weapon could determine the outcome of a battle due to the high level of accuracy that it could achieve. The French–Indian War was the first conflict during which rifles were used on a large scale, but it would take another eighty years to see the adoption of rifled muskets by the line infantry, which happened in most European armies around 1840.

Bouquet and Haldimand also modified the standard uniforms of the British line infantry in order to make them more comfortable for light infantry use. The long tails of the coat were shortened to increase mobility and the coloured lapels on the front of the uniform were buttoned up to be more practical. During the French–Indian War, the 60th Foot fought with enormous courage during several of the most important engagements, earning a renowned reputation and

Private of the Royal Marines, wearing the peculiar headgear that was worn as an alter-native to the black tricorn. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

the motto '*Celer et Audax*' ('Swift and Bold'). In 1762, in order to keep its soldiers in the ranks of the British armed forces, Parliament passed the American Protestant Soldier Naturalization Act, which offered naturalization to all those foreign officers and soldiers who had already served under the Union Jack for at least two years. Armed with rifled muskets and hatchets, the forest fighters of the Royal American Regiment also participated in Pontiac's War. By the outbreak of the American Revolution, the 60th Foot was the only light infantry regiment of the British Army and the only infantry unit to have a large establishment of four battalions. After the end of Pontiac's War, the number of soldiers in the 3rd Battalion and 4th Battalion was significantly reduced, but with the beginning of the new conflict in America, the two battalions were brought back to their original establishments. This was made by recruiting new soldiers from Britain and Hanover. In 'personal union' with the British Crown during the period 1714–1837, the German state of Hanover was an independent nation but had as its head of state the British king, the royal family of Hanover having obtained the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1714. Hanover provided a large number of expert German hunters and gamekeepers to the 60th Foot. The regiment fought with distinction during the American Revolution, remaining loyal to the Crown despite comprising large numbers of Americans in its ranks. Throughout the war it was an example to follow for many of the new Provincial units of loyalists that were raised in North America to support the British Army.

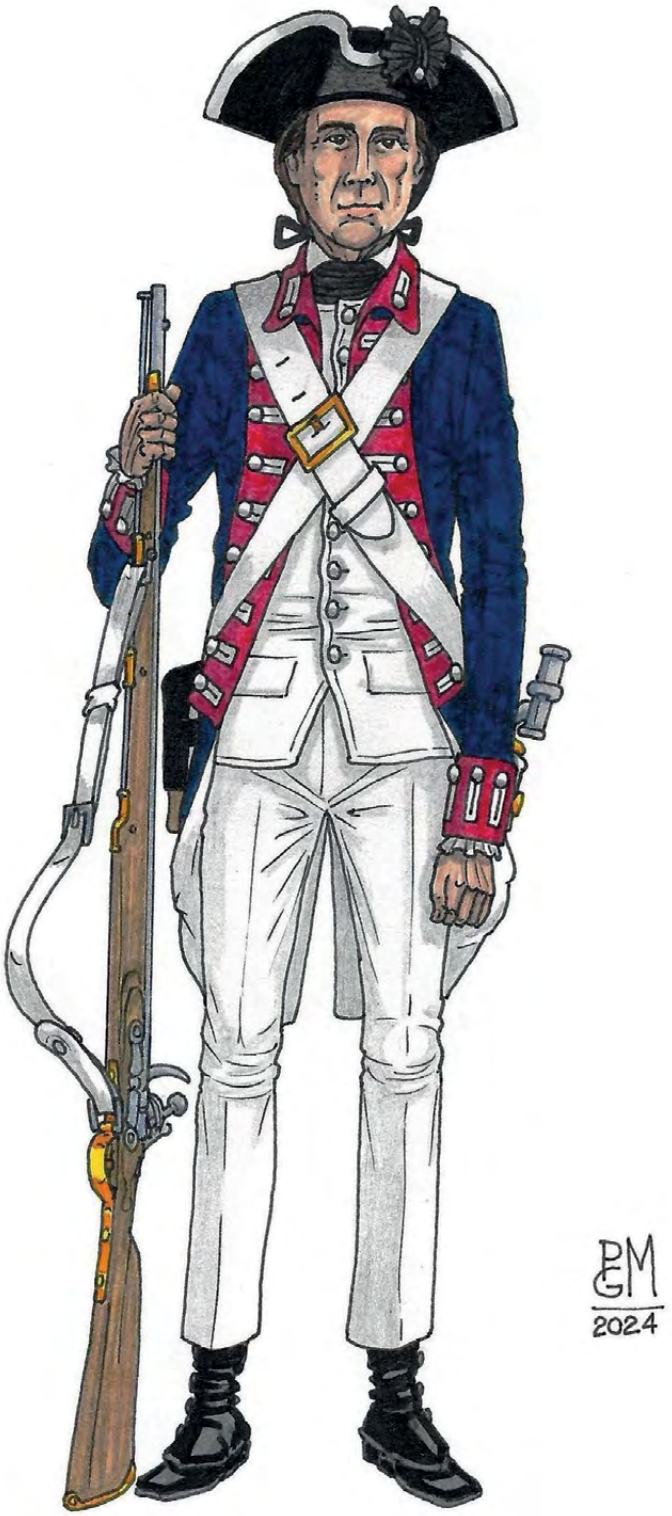
In 1758, each British line infantry battalion was ordered to train one of its companies as light infantry, but this measure was soon abolished with the end of the Seven Years' War. In 1771, a single light company was reintroduced in all the line battalions, but this measure had not yet been properly implemented when the conflict in the Thirteen Colonies began. By 1777, however, most of the British infantry regiments serving in America had converted one of their line companies into a light unit. These were made up of the best marksmen from each company and were deployed on the left flank of their battalion on the battlefield. The grenadier and light infantry companies of each battalion thereafter started to be known as flank companies, deployed on the right flank and left flank respectively. Like those of the grenadiers, light infantry companies of different regiments were frequently gathered together in order to form ad hoc temporary battalions.

Chapter 6

British Heavy and Light Cavalry

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the British heavy cavalry consisted of three distinct categories of units: the Dragoon Guards, the Regiments of Horse and the Dragoons. While the Dragoon Guards and the Regiments of Horse were formally made up of heavy horsemen and the Dragoons comprised medium horsemen, in practice there was very little difference between the types, all of them being trained and equipped to act as shock cavalry. The only real difference that existed between them and the regiments of Light Dragoons was the tactics they employed. The Dragoon Guards were first created in 1746, when the general organization of the British heavy cavalry underwent a radical reform. The first two heavy cavalry units that received the new denomination of Dragoon Guards were the Queen's Own Regiment of Horse and the Earl of Peterborough's Regiment of Horse, which respectively became the 1st Dragoon Guards and the 2nd Dragoon Guards. A third unit, the Earl of Plymouth's Regiment of Horse, was converted into a regiment of Dragoon Guards in 1747. The remaining four Regiments of Horse, numbered the 4th to the 7th, did not receive the new designation of Dragoon Guards until 1788. Since the days of the Restoration (1660), the English cavalry had been made up of horse regiments and dragoon regiments. Horse regiments were equipped with cuirasses until the late seventeenth century and consisted of proper heavy cavalry, whereas dragoon regiments were originally raised as mounted infantry that were not tasked with conducting frontal charges. Initially, dragoons were introduced in European armies from 1648 as chosen units of infantrymen who used their horses to travel long distances or to move around the battlefield, but dismounted to fight. In practice, they were infantrymen with a higher degree of mobility, since they were armed with long infantry muskets and did not have the same leather boots worn by the cavalrymen of the horse regiments.

Over time, most notably during the early eighteenth century, the dragoons gradually lost their original mounted infantry nature and were transformed into normal line cavalry. At the same time, the horse regiments discarded their metal cuirasses and started to use lighter personal equipment. As a result of these changes, the existing tactical differences that distinguished horse regiments from the dragoons practically ceased to exist. Neither the heavy horsemen nor the dragoons now wore cuirasses



Musketeer of the Newfoundland Regiment. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

and were employed to perform the same duties. Consequently, in 1746, the British government decided to transform the horse regiments into dragoon units in order to cut costs and to eliminate a tactical differentiation that no longer existed in practice. The heavy mounts of the horse regiments had a considerable cost but produced no real advantages during battle. In addition, the soldiers of the horse regiments had the privilege of being paid much more than those of dragoon units. With the creation of the Dragoon Guards, the British government found a good compromise: the costly horse regiments started to be abolished, but at the same time their members kept alive the glorious traditions of the British heavy cavalry. The term 'Guards' of their new official denomination underlined that the units of Dragoon Guards were the elite of the British heavy cavalry, marking a formal difference between them and the normal dragoons. The transformation of the horse regiments into Dragoon Guards was very unpopular among the units affected, as it led to drastic reductions in the pay given to their members. In addition, the new official name did not signify the inclusion of the former horse regiments into the Royal Household. In practice, the Dragoon Guards were placed between the Life Guards/Horse Guards and the normal regiments of Dragoons. By the outbreak of the American Revolution, there were fourteen regiments of Dragoons, which along with three regiments of Dragoon Guards and four of Horse gave the heavy cavalry of the British Army a total of twenty-one regiments. None of these participated in the American War of Independence, the irregular terrain of the Thirteen Colonies not being well suited to the employment of heavy cavalry formations. From an organizational point of view, the regiments of Dragoon Guards were numbered progressively from the 1st to 3rd, and the regiments of Horse from the 1st to 4th. The regiments of Light Dragoons were numbered in progressive order after those of Dragoons, their first unit being the 15th Regiment of Light Dragoons.

The heavy cavalry regiments of the British Army were structured on troops, two of which made up a squadron. Squadrons were known by letters, troops by numbers. Each British heavy cavalry regiment consisted of six troops that were assembled into three squadrons; of the latter, one was a depot unit that was always kept as a reserve in Britain and was never sent to serve overseas. The depot squadron of each regiment provided new recruits with solid basic training to the two active squadrons in order to replenish losses suffered during overseas deployments. Each heavy cavalry unit comprised three senior officers, each of whom commanded one squadron: a colonel, lieutenant colonel and major. When absent, the colonel was replaced by a captain lieutenant. Each troop comprised one captain, one lieutenant and one cornet, plus six NCOs (three sergeants and three corporals) and fifty-nine troopers. Each troop also included two musicians. During the first four decades of the eighteenth century,

the heavy cavalry was the most important component of the European mounted troops, making up the bulk of the cavalry forces mobilized by the various nations and having acquired a certain tactical supremacy on the continent's battlefields. Highly trained and well-disciplined, the heavy cavalry consisted of horsemen armed with long swords with a straight blade and mounted on massive horses. They were able to charge and manoeuvre in perfect order, maintaining 'knee-to-knee' close formations, and were mostly employed to conduct frontal charges and to cover the retreat of the line infantry when routed by the enemy. The evolutions required on the battlefield were repeated every day during training sessions, under the incessant beat of the drums. During the eighteenth century, the Prussian Army of Frederick the Great perfected the use of heavy cavalry tactics.

During the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War, however, certain episodes revealed that the Prussian heavy cavalry was not as perfect as it might have seemed. It became evident that it could experience serious problems when operating on broken terrain or fighting against enemy units that employed hit-and-run guerrilla tactics. In particular, the Prussians struggled to deal with the efficient light troops deployed by the Austrian Empire, consisting of semi-regular light cavalry recruited from the Balkans. The light cavalrymen of the Austrian Army, commonly known as hussars, had been fighting for decades against the Ottoman Turks on the southern frontier of the Austrian Empire. The region had endured a state of almost endless conflict, during which both

Private of the Volunteers of Ireland. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

sides launched rapid pillaging incursions into the territory of their enemy. Gradually, Austria's frontier soldiers had learned to fight like their enemies, becoming expert in the art of skirmishing and scouting. Their usual area of operations was covered by mountains and woods, where each soldier had to move individually rather than in close formation. These fighters were the direct heirs of a glorious military tradition, which had originated in Hungary during the late Renaissance: the hussars were the Hungarian national cavalry, like the uhlans (lancers) were Poland's national cavalry. Most of the Hungarian light horsemen were civilian farmers and lived on the Balkan frontier as military settlers. Their innovative tactics derived from direct combat experience and were based on the principle of open formation. Each cavalryman advanced independently, but always kept contact with other members of his unit, covering his advance behind natural obstacles of the terrain (such as trees) and firing upon the enemy from a favourable position. With the introduction of these new tactics, firearms also became important for cavalry and started playing a prominent role. During the War of the Austrian Succession, the Hungarian light cavalrymen of the Austrian Army often caused serious trouble and losses to Frederick the Great's heavy mounted troops. Initially dismissed by the more traditionalist of their enemies, they were eventually acknowledged as playing a very important role on the battlefield.

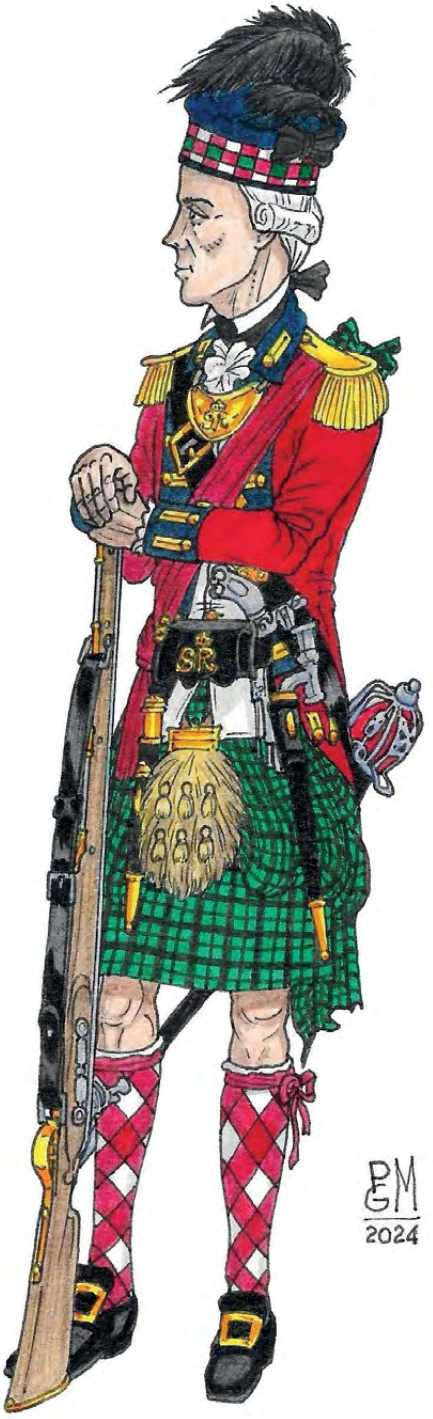
As the other great powers of Europe, differently from Austria, had no militarized border from which expert light mounted fighters could be recruited, they started to create their own light cavalry corps by recruiting Hungarian mercenaries or prisoners of war. This was the case for France and several other European nations, where hussar units proliferated during the mid-eighteenth century. The new light horsemen of the European armies adopted the same uniforms and weapons as the Hungarian hussars, but local versions of them soon started to appear. In countries such as Great Britain, the new light cavalry assumed from the beginning some distinctive features that were quite different from the hussars of Austria or France. The general expansion of the light cavalry units continued well after the end of the War of the Austrian Succession, the experience of combat in the Seven Years' War doing nothing but confirm the tactical importance of the new light units. A new form of warfare was now born: the '*petite guerre*' or 'little war', based on low-intensity combat and hit-and-run tactics. The British Army was greatly affected by this light cavalry revolution that took place in the eighteenth century, its cavalry being completely reorganized and modernized during the years between the end of the War of the Austrian Succession and the outbreak of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745–46. It should be noted, however, that in Britain the introduction of new light cavalry tactics encountered very strong opposition. The British officer corps of the time, especially that of the cavalry, was extremely conservative and considered with suspicion any innovation coming

from abroad. Eventually, however, evidence obliged the traditionalists to abandon their position.

Until 1745, the British Army comprised only heavy cavalry units, but this began to change with the outbreak of the Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland. During the uprising, British cavalry experienced great difficulties in chasing down the highly mobile insurgent forces of the Scots, who moved very rapidly on the broken terrain of the Highlands and were masters of hit-and-run tactics. Acknowledging this, the Duke of Kingston, an English noble who supported the British efforts against the Jacobites, decided to raise a volunteer horse regiment of light cavalry from his lands in Nottinghamshire. This new corps, organized by the duke at his own expense, was officially ranked as the 10th Regiment of Horse of the British Army, but its members were trained as light cavalrymen despite being equipped and uniformed like standard heavy horsemen. The Duke of Kingston's Regiment of Horse performed extremely well during the Jacobite Rebellion, participating in the decisive Battle of Culloden, after which it pursued the defeated Jacobites with great determination. Initially, the regulars of the British Army had many prejudices against this new light corps, but combat experience showed them the unit's potential. After the end of the Jacobite uprising in 1746, the experimental volunteer regiment raised by the Duke of Kingston was disbanded, its members having enlisted only for the duration of the war. The Duke of Cumberland, who commanded the British Army at Culloden, was very impressed by the unit and would have preferred to retain it in service. Although this was not possible for practical reasons, Cumberland found a way to maintain some light cavalry in his forces. He organized a new light cavalry unit, known as the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment of Light Dragoons, in which he enlisted all the men of the recently disbanded Duke of Kingston's Regiment of Horse. The new corps was the first-ever regular light cavalry unit of the British Army and the first to be ranked as Light Dragoons. The regiment was soon dispatched to continental Europe and participated to the final operations of the War of the Austrian Succession, distinguishing itself at the Battle of Lauffeld. In 1749, however, the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment of Light Dragoons was disbanded soon after the end of the hostilities in Europe. Cumberland was one of the first British military commanders to understand the importance and potential of the new light cavalry corps. During the Jacobite Rebellion, for example, he had a small personal bodyguard formed by hussars who were recruited in Hungary. These, despite being few in number, fought with distinction at Culloden and made a good impression on even the most traditionalist officers of the British Army. These Duke of Cumberland's Hussars were the first unit of the British Army to wear the dress of the Hungarian light cavalry.

Private from the light infantry company of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. The helmet shown here could be worn as an alternative to the more common black wide-brimmed hat. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

Until 1757, the British cavalry continued to be made up only of heavy regiments, the experimental cavalry units active between 1745 and 1749 having all been disbanded with the end of the ongoing wars. It was only a question of time, however, before Britain would be involved in a new conflict. Indeed, it was not long before the Seven Years' War broke out and the British Army found itself involved in another large-scale European war. The need for light cavalry units was becoming increasingly strong in all the major armies of the time, and the British Army was no exception. In April 1757, the formation of eleven independent troops of light cavalry was authorized. Each of these was attached to one of the existing horse regiments and had the following internal establishment: three officers, one troop quartermaster, five NCOs, two drummers and sixty troopers. Members of these new troops were chosen from the youngest and fittest recruits of the existing horse regiments; they were mounted on small and nimble horses, being trained to act as skirmishers and explorers. The new light horsemen continued to wear the standard uniforms of their parent regiments, but received distinctive headgear consisting of a black leather helmet with an upright comb, a frontal plate mounted with brass and a drooping feather. They were still armed with straight-bladed swords, but also carried a flintlock carbine and a couple of pistols. The glorious tradition of the British Light Dragoons was thus born. Within a few years, these new light units proved their great potential, and in 1759 it was decided to form seven independent regiments of light cavalry.



Officer of the Royal Highland Emigrants. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

These were recruited very rapidly and were numbered in progressive order after the fourteen regiments of dragoons that existed at the time. The following new units of Light Dragoons were organized:

15th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in the London area by George Augustus Eliott, soon distinguishing itself during the Battle of Emsdorf (1760) in Germany. After taking part in the Battle of Wilhelmsthal (1762), it returned home. Between 1766 and 1769, there was an attempt to give a separate numeration to the regiments of Light Dragoons, and this unit briefly became the 1st Regiment of Light Dragoons. When this experiment ended, the regiment received its original denomination again.

16th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised by John Burgoyne, this unit took part in the closing stages of the Seven Years' War. Between 1766 and 1769, it was named the 2nd Regiment of Light Dragoons.

17th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in Scotland, this regiment was disbanded at the end of the Seven Years' War.

18th Regiment of Light Dragoons: this unit saw some action in Germany during 1761 and was renamed as the 3rd Regiment of Light Dragoons in 1766. In 1769 it was ranked as the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons, the unit originally having this denomination having been disbanded.

19th Regiment of Light Dragoons: renamed as the 4th Regiment of Light Dragoons in 1766, during 1769 it was ranked as the 18th Regiment of Light Dragoons. It was formed by brigading some of the light cavalry troops that had been created in 1757.

20th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in Ireland, it was disbanded at the end of the Seven Years' War. It was formed by bringing together some of the light troops that had been formed in 1757.

21st Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in England, it was disbanded at the end of the Seven Years' War. It too was formed by brigading some of the light cavalry units that had been created in 1757.

By 1765, the British cavalry comprised a total of four regiments of Light Dragoons, with a fifth added in 1768 when the 12th Regiment of Dragoons was transformed into the 12th Regiment of Light Dragoons. Combat experience in the Seven Years' War had shown the importance of having some good light cavalry, so when the American Revolution broke out, the British government decided to expand its mounted troops by adding more light cavalry corps:

19th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in 1779, disbanded in 1783.

20th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in 1779, disbanded in 1783.

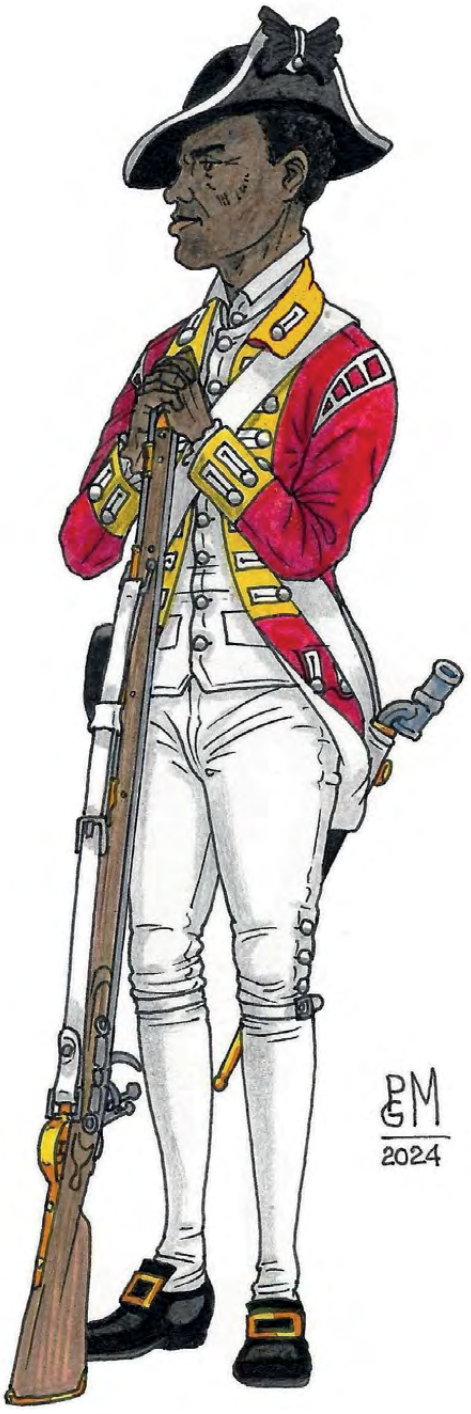
21st Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in 1779, disbanded in 1783.

22nd Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in 1779, disbanded in 1783.

23rd Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised in 1781, not disbanded.

As this makes clear, most of these new units were temporary corps that had a very short history. The only exception was the 23rd Regiment, which became the new 19th Light Dragoons when it was disbanded in 1783. Of the several light cavalry units that were part of the British Army from 1775–83, only two – the 16th Light Dragoons and 17th Light Dragoons – served in North America and could thus learn something from combat experience in the American Revolution. These two units were the only cavalry corps of the British Army that fought in the Thirteen Colonies:

16th Regiment of Light Dragoons: formed as a Light Dragoon regiment in 1759, it participated in the Seven Years' War and was sent to Portugal in order to support the country's military efforts against Spain. In 1776, it was despatched to the Thirteen Colonies in order to crush the American Revolution, taking part in several important engagements, including Brandywine (1777), Germantown (1777)



Private of the Carolina Corps.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

and Monmouth (1778). The unit included a small foot detachment, whose members operated as light infantrymen. In 1779, the regiment returned to Britain.

17th Regiment of Light Dragoons: raised as a Light Dragoon regiment in 1759, it was sent to North America in 1775 and was the only British cavalry unit that remained in the Thirteen Colonies until 1783. In 1777, a detachment from the regiment was used to create the infamous British Legion, commanded by Banastre Tarleton, which fought with counter-guerrilla methods against the American insurgents and obtained a series of minor victories. After the end of the hostilities in North America, the 17th Light Dragoons returned home and were assigned to the garrison of Ireland.

In addition to the creation of some short-lived units, the years of the American Revolution also saw the transformation of several existing heavy cavalry corps into regiments of Light Dragoons:

- The 7th Regiment of Dragoons became the **7th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1783.
- The 8th Regiment of Dragoons became the **8th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1776.
- The 9th Regiment of Dragoons became the **9th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1783.
- The 10th Regiment of Dragoons became the **10th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1783.
- The 11th Regiment of Dragoons became the **11th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1783.
- The 13th Regiment of Dragoons became the **13th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1783.
- The 14th Regiment of Dragoons became the **14th Regiment of Light Dragoons** in 1776.

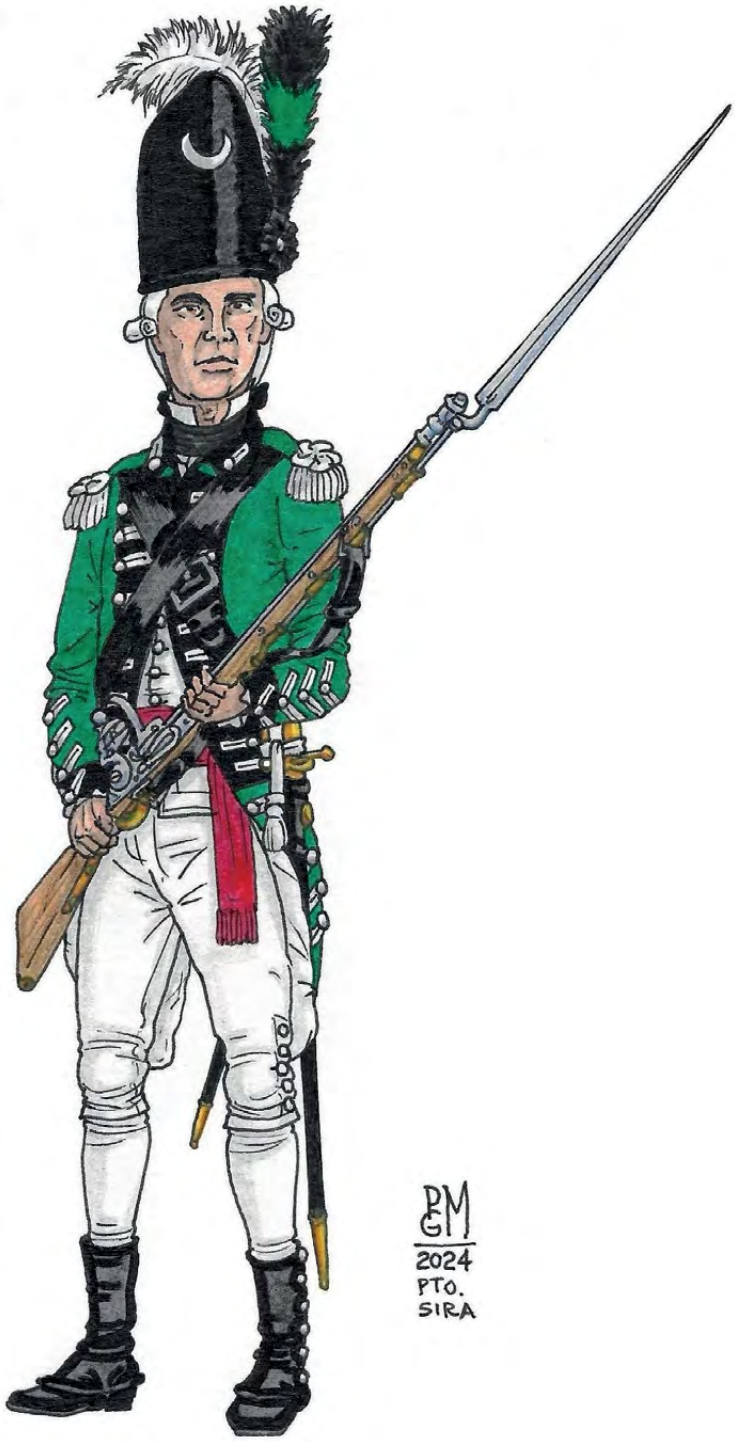
As a result, by 1784, the British Army comprised a total of nineteen regiments of Light Dragoons. Their internal organization was exactly the same as the heavy cavalry units, with six troops that were assembled into three squadrons.

Chapter 7

Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Marines

Until the beginning of the eighteenth century, the artillerymen of most European armies were required to fire their guns but were not equipped to defend themselves from enemy attacks. This meant that they had to be escorted on the battlefield by units of infantrymen specifically charged to do so. Prior to 1716, with the creation of the Royal Artillery, the British Army did not comprise any permanent company/battery of artillery. Temporary artillery trains were organized by the Ordnance Department only when needed, and were usually disbanded at the end of each campaign. In times of peace, some dozens of professional gunners were at the service of the Ordnance Department, scattered across Britain and manning the guns of the various garrisons. During war, they were assembled to form an artillery train and were supplemented with a number of civilian matrosses and pioneers, semi-skilled civilian labourers who were contracted only for the duration of a campaign. The conductors of the carts that were used to move the artillery pieces were also all civilians. The eighteenth century was a period of great change and progressive professionalization for the British artillery and the smaller technical corps that supported it. The first two permanent companies/batteries of artillery of the British Army were established in 1716, structured for the first time as independent corps. In 1720, they received the official denomination of Royal Artillery, but in practice they were an autonomous military force from their creation. The two original companies were quickly increased to four and were assembled – at least from an administrative point of view – with the artillery companies of the garrisons in Gibraltar and Menorca since the end of the War of the Spanish Succession. As a result of these organizational changes, it was possible to create the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1722. This had the numerical consistency of a single battalion, and its members soon became famed for their training and professionalism. From the outset, selection and promotion in the Royal Artillery were based on merit, which ensured the excellence of the officer corps of this new branch of service.

In 1741, in order to improve the general quality of all the artillerymen serving across the British Empire, a cadet company was formed at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich, tasked with training not only the officers of the Royal Artillery Regiment but also those artillery officers serving with the British East India Company. In



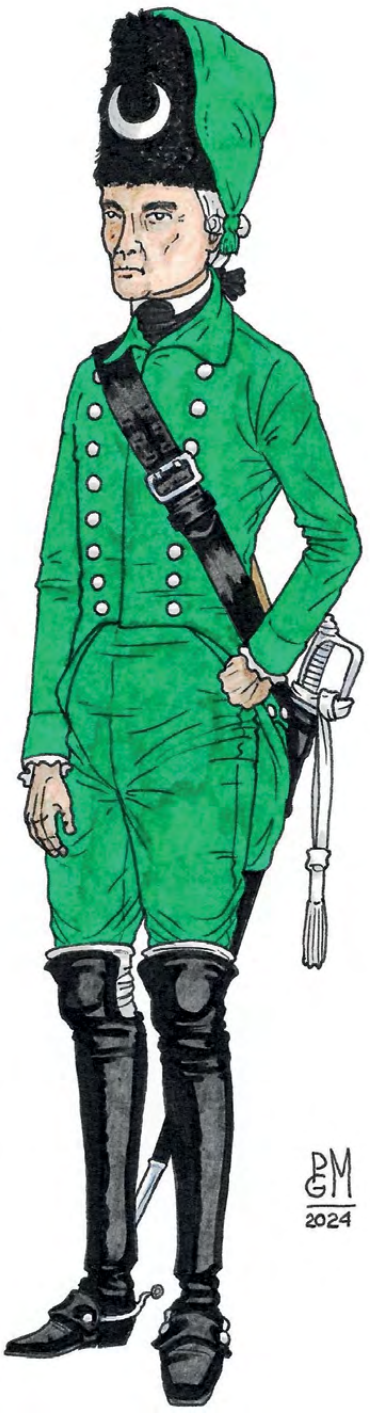
Officer of the light infantry from the Queen's Rangers.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

1757, the Royal Artillery Regiment was reorganized on two battalions with twelve companies each, but its expansion continued during the following decades. By 1775, it comprised the following sub-units: four active battalions with ten companies each, two independent companies made up of veteran invalids (performing garrison duties) and a permanent military band. In 1779, the two veteran companies were transformed into an independent battalion after absorbing two companies from each of the existing active battalions. The number of Royal Artillery companies operating in the Thirteen Colonies between 1775 and 1783 fluctuated according to the military needs of the various campaigns. However, all the companies serving in North America came from the 3rd Battalion or 4th Battalion. The latter was raised and based in the American colonies, and its companies formed the bulk of the British artillery in the American War of Independence. The various battalions of the Royal Artillery Regiment were not employed on the field as complete units, their companies/batteries usually being deployed as autonomous corps. When this happened, they were commonly known as brigades, despite consisting of companies with just six pieces each. Attached to each brigade was a detachment of civilian artillery drivers, tasked with moving the guns on the battlefield. Ireland had an independent artillery corps, known as the Royal Irish Artillery, which was formed in 1755 and sent some gunners to North America since 1777. The Royal Irish Artillery was created mostly to provide drafts for the Royal Artillery Regiment. The standard establishment of a Royal Artillery company/battery/brigade comprised the following elements: two captains, two first lieutenants, one second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, 100 gunners and three drummers. Of the six artillery pieces that were manned by a company/battery/brigade, on most occasions five were field guns and one a howitzer. These were transported together with their limbers and some wagons that were essential for their correct functioning: ammunition wagons, baggage wagons and spare wheel wagons. In addition, each artillery brigade also had a field forge that was required for repairing damaged pieces. A total of about 100 drivers and 200 draught animals were usually needed to move a single artillery battery.

The Corps of Royal Engineers, like the Royal Artillery, was organized as a stable military unit only in 1716. Until then, the British Army had only a few independent officers with specific engineering skills. The formation of an independent Corps of Engineers (the 'Royal' prefix was added in 1787), however, made no significant change to the existing situation. Until the outbreak of the Napoleonic Wars, the Corps of Engineers continued to comprise just a few commissioned officers who had undergone specific technical training at Woolwich. Like the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers were not under the administrative control of the British Army, being managed by the efficient Board of Ordnance. Their officers, like those of the

artillery, were promoted according to seniority and merit, differently from those of the army, who purchased their commissions. The labour force for the Royal Engineers was provided by the pioneers of the various infantry regiments. A single company of Royal Military Artificers existed since 1772, but this was always deployed in Gibraltar until 1783.

Until 1755, the naval infantry component of the Royal Navy was provided by several infantry regiments that were detached for sea service from the rest of the British Army. This practice of using normal infantry units to perform naval infantry duties had begun in 1664, when the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot was raised. Also known as the Admiral Regiment, this unit provided infantrymen to several warships of the Royal Navy. In 1755, the British government decided to organize an independent corps of naval infantry, which received the official denomination of Marines (changed to Royal Marines in 1802). The new naval infantrymen were initially structured on fifteen autonomous companies, each of which could be sent to serve on one warship. Differently from the sailors of the Royal Navy, the Marines were all volunteers, like the infantrymen of the army, and thus had a lot in common with them, including their uniform. The various companies of Marines were assembled, from an administrative point of view, into three divisions that took their name from the location where they were based: Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth. When the American Revolution began, the companies of Marines stationed in Boston were gathered into two temporary battalions (complete with flank companies, like in the line infantry) that took part in the early military operations of the war. After Boston was lost by the British, the Marines continued to operate in the Thirteen Colonies for the duration of



Hussar from the Queen's Rangers. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

the war as independent companies. Each of the companies contained the following elements: one captain, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, eight sergeants, eight corporals, five drummers and 130 privates. The main tasks of the Marines were acting as marksmen on warships, conducting boarding operations, manning the guns of warships on which they served and organizing amphibious landings. In addition, they were tasked with preventing or crushing mutinies that took place among the sailors of a warship.

Chapter 8

Provincials and Loyalists

When the French–Indian War began, the authorities of the Thirteen Colonies were forced to recruit large numbers of new military units in addition to their ordinary militias. The conflict was fought on a large scale and most of its operations took place in remote areas of North America. The militia units were organized and trained to fight only for short periods and not far from their home territories, so a new category of American forces had to be created. These were the Provincial Troops, or Provincials, permanent full-time corps that were available for conducting extended operations far from their home colony. Most of the new Provincial units were recruited through a quota system that was applied to the existing militia. Generally speaking, they were made up of the best militiamen who were interested in having a military career. The Provincials had a lot in common with the regular regiments of the British Army but were temporary in nature, and were usually disbanded when the campaign or war for which they had been formed came to an end. In this sense, they were similar to the original militia units. Some early Provincial Troops had already been organized during the 1745 expedition against the French fortress of Louisbourg, on which occasion the following units were formed:

Massachusetts: seven infantry regiments.

New Hampshire: one infantry regiment.

Connecticut: one infantry regiment.

Rhode Island: three infantry companies.

Following the capture of Louisbourg, the American colonies decided to assemble a larger military force in order to attempt an invasion of Canada. Although this ended in failure, it led to the formation of the following units:

Massachusetts: two infantry regiments (twenty-seven companies).

Connecticut: one infantry regiment (ten companies).

New Hampshire: one infantry regiment (nine companies).

Rhode Island: three independent infantry companies.

New York: thirty-one independent infantry companies.

New Jersey: five independent infantry companies.

Maryland: three independent infantry companies.

Pennsylvania: four independent infantry companies

Virginia: one independent infantry company.

The number of Provincials raised during the French–Indian War was much greater than those listed above, an impressive achievement for the American standards of the time. Indeed, each of the Thirteen Colonies contributed to the war effort.

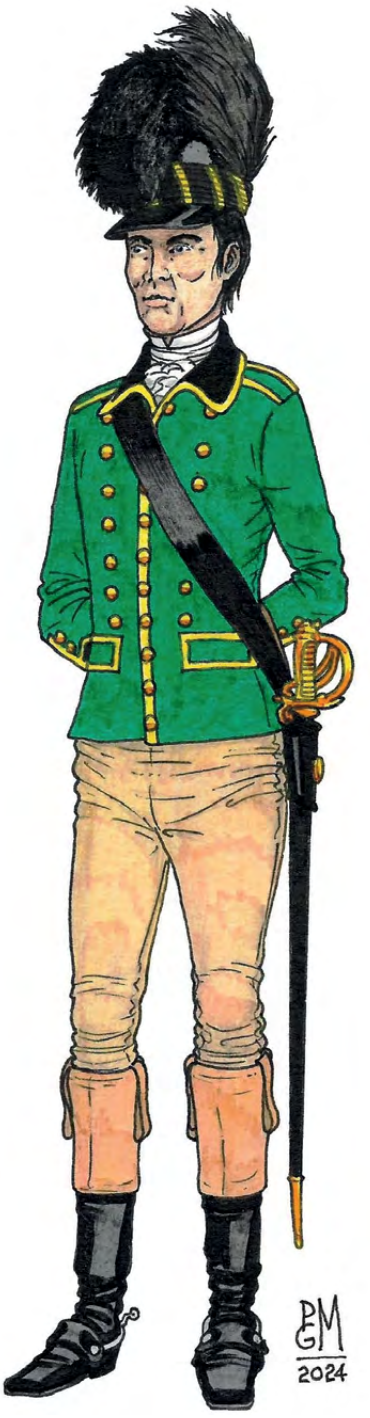
Connecticut: the first two infantry regiments were raised in 1755, followed by another two during the same year. In 1757, another temporary infantry regiment was added, but it was disbanded in 1758. The original four units were maintained until 1761, when they were reduced to two regiments supplemented by two independent infantry companies. All corps were disbanded in 1763.

Delaware: 300 Provincials were raised for the campaign of 1758.

Georgia: the colony provided only two companies of rangers and one troop of cavalry, due to its limited population.

Maryland: a single company of rangers was mobilized in 1754, followed by 200 Provincials having garrison duties. During 1755, an infantry battalion was organized.

Massachusetts: initially this colony raised a single infantry regiment having two independent battalions. During 1755, another two infantry regiments, with 500 men each, were organized, together with a small



Officer of the British Legion.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

artillery train consisting of one captain, one lieutenant, one assistant, three NCOs and sixteen gunners. For the campaign of 1756, the Provincials of Massachusetts were greatly expanded and reorganized, with seven infantry regiments of 500 soldiers each and two artillery companies with 110 men each. In 1757, the infantry was reduced to a single regiment, having a large establishment with 1,800 soldiers in seventeen companies. In 1758, the Massachusetts war effort reached its peak, with the raising of seven infantry regiments having 1,000 men each. The Provincial infantry of the colony was reorganized in 1759 on eight regiments and four independent companies. These were supplemented by 300 pioneers, who carried out auxiliary duties. During 1760, the number of infantry regiments was reduced to five, then to three in 1761. In addition to the above, a small independent infantry company was garrisoned in Boston from 1757.

New Hampshire: initially the Provincials of New Hampshire consisted of two infantry regiments, one independent infantry company that had garrison duties and one company of rangers. In 1756, the foot regiments were reduced to one and the ranger company was re-formed. During 1757, one battalion and one independent company of infantry were added to the existing units, both having garrison duties. A single company of carpenters and three companies of rangers were also raised. From 1758–60, New Hampshire continued to provide a single infantry regiment to the British war effort.

New Jersey: at the beginning of the hostilities, the colony established a single battalion of infantry and a Frontier Guard made up of 400 soldiers. During 1756, the infantry unit was expanded and became a regiment; in 1757, a new company of rangers was formed. Before the end of the hostilities, in 1762, New Jersey created an independent infantry company that carried out garrison duties.

New York: in 1755, a single regiment of infantry was organized, which was re-raised for the campaigns of 1756 and 1757. During 1758, the establishment of this single unit was expanded to three battalions. The original New York Regiment was reduced to two battalions in 1759, but the following year another three short-lived infantry regiments were formed.

North Carolina: at the outbreak of the French–Indian War, the colony raised a single (weak) regiment of infantry. This was soon supplemented by a ranger company and a small garrison company, tasked with frontier defence. Later, another three independent infantry companies were formed and assembled with the existing one to create a battalion. In 1757, the Provincials of North Carolina were reduced to just two independent companies, each with fifty men. During the following year, a new infantry

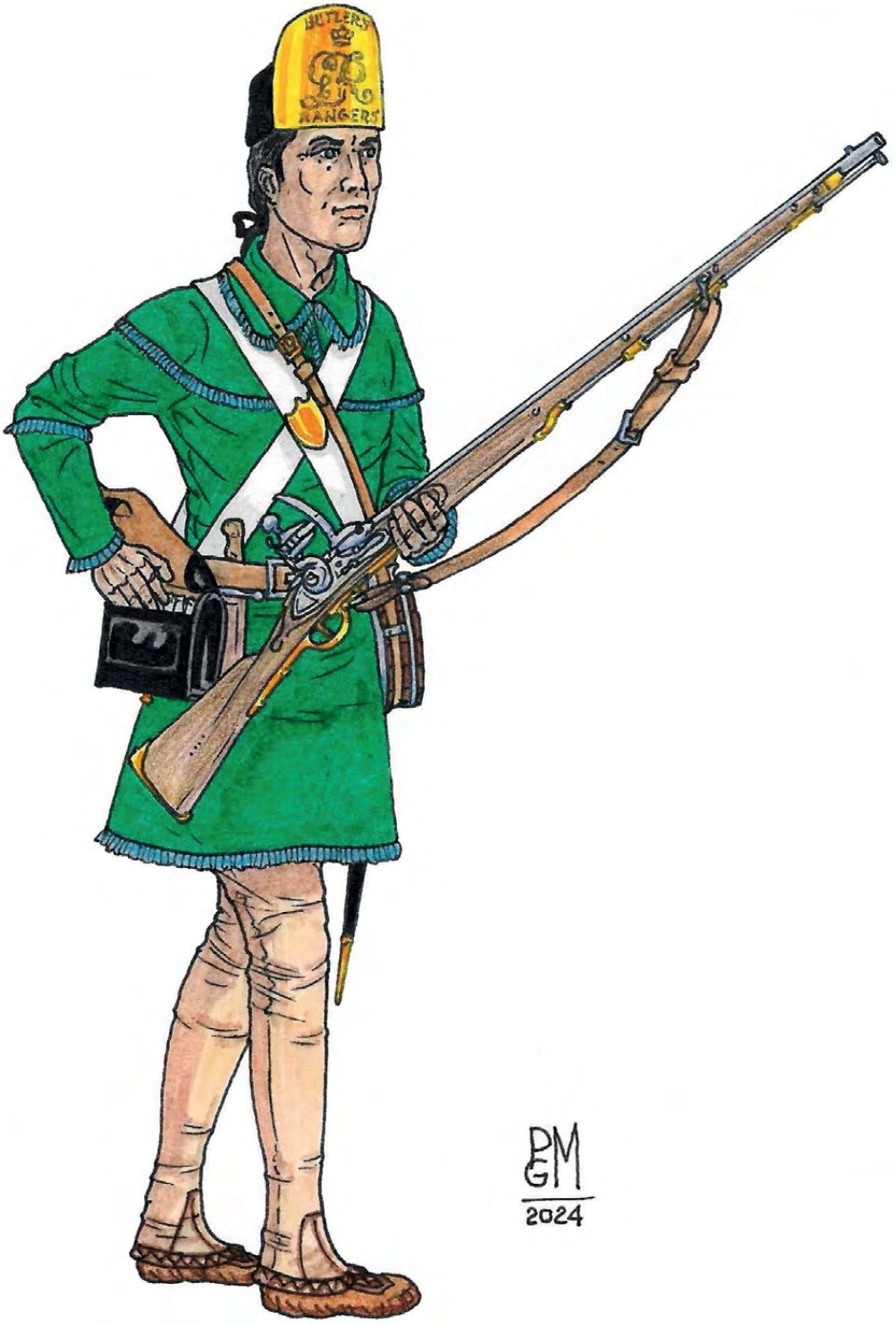
battalion was raised, which continued to be supported by two garrison companies. In 1759, only the latter remained active, each having just thirty men. During 1761, an infantry regiment with seven companies was raised, but this was short-lived.

Pennsylvania: the colony had no proper militia to speak of in 1754, having always been dominated by pacifist Quakers. An organization of volunteers, created by Benjamin Franklin and known as Associated Companies, provided military services to the colony's government. However, three Provincial infantry battalions were soon after raised in Pennsylvania in order to fight against the French. In 1757, these were reduced to two and were grouped into a single regiment. During 1758, a third battalion was re-formed and the internal establishment of all battalions was expanded (the first had twelve companies, the second thirteen and the third seventeen). The first two battalions also had an attached troop of cavalry.

Rhode Island: this colony initially contributed with a single infantry regiment, which was re-raised in 1756. During the same year, a second infantry regiment, with 400 soldiers, was also created. In 1757, the establishment with two infantry regiments was confirmed and one company of rangers was also added. In addition, one reserve battalion with 250 men was organized, to be used only in case of need. Between 1758 and 1760, Rhode Island contributed to the British war effort with a single infantry regiment, which maintained a standard establishment of 1,000 soldiers.

South Carolina: the first Provincials of this territory were raised only in 1760, when seven troops of mounted rangers were formed to fight against the natives along the frontier. Soon afterwards, a small infantry regiment was organized, which continued to serve until 1761.

Virginia: in 1754, the colony raised its first Provincial military unit, the famous Virginia Regiment that was later commanded by Colonel George Washington. This soon proved itself an excellent unit, participating in Braddock's Expedition of 1755. However, during this campaign, the Virginia Regiment (with ten companies) was annihilated and suffered severe losses at the Battle of Monogahela. Virginia contributed to military operations in the Ohio River Valley with six companies of foot rangers, one company of mounted rangers and two companies of carpenters. The Virginia Regiment was rapidly re-raised, this time with an expanded establishment of sixteen companies. In 1758, a 2nd Virginia Regiment was formed, the original one remaining under the command of Colonel Washington. In 1759, the new regiment was disbanded and a reserve force of 500 soldiers was organized. Before the end of the French–Indian War, three independent companies of frontier guards were also raised.



Private of Butler's Rangers. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

Canadian militiaman from Quebec. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

With the end of the war with France, most of the Provincial units listed above were rapidly disbanded by the authorities of the various colonies. The new Provincial units, however, continued to exist (albeit on a smaller scale) until the outbreak of the American Revolution. The direct heirs of the Provincial units in the War of Independence were the Loyalist corps that supported the British Army, which were frequently mentioned as Provincial Corps in British official documents. When the American Revolution broke out, around 20 per cent of the population living in the Thirteen Colonies remained loyal to Great Britain, making an important contribution to British military efforts. The Loyalists were a minority, but a quite strong one, so the American War of Independence could be considered as a civil war since it saw clashes between communities living on the same territory but having different expectations for their future. As the war progressed, many Loyalists were expelled from their properties by the patriots and became refugees in those areas of the Thirteen Colonies that were still under control of the Crown. The city of New York remained in British hands until 1783, becoming the main headquarter of the American Loyalists during most of the conflict. The majority of the Loyalist corps were equipped as line infantry and were employed as garrison troops by the British, but some units of light infantry and light cavalry distinguished themselves and made a great contribution to Britain's military efforts. The Crown's military contingents in North America lacked light troops with knowledge of the terrain on which they were operating, so the elite ranger units organized by the Loyalists proved their worth in conducting scouting/skirmishing operations. The Loyalist movement was active not only in the Thirteen Colonies but also in the other dominions of Great Britain that bordered with the future USA, including Canada and the British West Indies. The following section details all the Loyalist military units according to their geographical provenance.

Thirteen Colonies

Adam's Rangers: a single company of light infantry raised from the Loyalists of Vermont, in the area that was known as the New Hampshire Grants. The rangers acted as scouts and messengers until being progressively disbanded after the Battle of Saratoga.

American Legion: raised and stationed on Long Island, New York, from October 1780, it consisted of about 300 men organized into one company of infantry and three troops of cavalry. The unit was commanded by Brigadier General Benedict Arnold.

American Volunteers: this unit was organized in New York in the last months of 1779 and did not have a proper structure, being raised from picked men (i.e. survivors) of various Loyalist corps that had been recently disbanded or destroyed.

Armed Boatmen: a single company of auxiliaries raised in July 1781 to operate on the lower course of the Hudson River.

Associated Loyalists: this unit was the result of a British scheme to organize secret corps of Loyalists in American-held areas, with the objective of conducting guerrilla operations. Several hundred Loyalists entered this secret military organization, but most of them were discovered and arrested by the American authorities in June 1781.

Black Dragoons: raised in South Carolina during 1782, they consisted of individual volunteers who were attached to the existing Loyalist cavalry troops. In total, there were some 300 such volunteers.

Black Pioneers: a company raised in the Carolinas during May 1776 from runaway slaves. It was a labour force at the disposal of the Royal Engineers.

British Legion: created on 28 July 1778, this was one of the most important Loyalist military units, commanded from 1779 by the famous Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. It consisted of four companies of light infantry and six troops of light cavalry. Tarleton, who gave his name to the elegant helmet used by the British Legion and later adopted by the whole British light cavalry, was an excellent commander with innovative tactical ideas. His infantry companies could travel long distances on horse, and were thus capable of acting as mounted infantry. The cavalry was trained to conduct hit-and-run attacks and perform counter-guerrilla duties. The infantry of the British Legion was also occasionally given light artillery guns. On 7 March 1781, the corps was made part of the regular British Army as the 5th American Regiment. The British created the American Establishment by transforming the best five units of Loyalists into line infantry regiments.

Buck's County Light Dragoons: a single troop of light cavalry raised in Philadelphia from February 1778. It was attached to the Queen's Rangers in 1779 and to the British Legion in 1780.

Caledonian Volunteers: this short-lived corps was raised in New York during the summer of 1778 and merged with the British Legion after a few weeks.

Chester County Light Dragoons: short-lived corps raised in 1778 and merged with the British Legion within a few months.

De Lancey's Refugees: organized during 1776 in Westchester Country, near New York. It comprised several companies of line infantry, one company of light infantry and one troop of light dragoons.

De Lancey's Brigade: raised in September 1776 by Brigadier General Oliver De Lancey in the counties located around New York, the brigade consisted of three battalions (later reduced to two) with 500 infantrymen each, making it one of the largest Loyalist military units.

Diemar's Hussars: a single light cavalry troops raised from Brunswick (German) soldiers who were already serving in America. It was merged with the Queen's Rangers in 1782.

Emmerich's Chasseurs: raised and stationed in New York from April 1776, it consisted of three companies of light infantry and one troop of light cavalry. Most of its members had German origins and one of the infantry companies was equipped with rifles. The unit was disbanded in August 1779.

Ethiopian Regiment: raised in November 1775 by the governor of Virginia, it consisted of seized Black slaves belonging to American landowners who had rebelled against the Crown. The 200 members of the regiment were promised freedom in exchange for their military services. In the late summer of 1776, the unit, which had white officers and NCOs, was disbanded and its surviving components were assembled into a Virginia Company of Blacks that acted as a labour force for the Royal Artillery.

Georgia Light Dragoons: a single troop of cavalry, raised in 1778 and disbanded in 1782.

Georgia Loyalists: a very small corps with just seventy men, who were soon absorbed into other units.

Guides and Pioneers: raised in New York during late 1777, it consisted of five labour companies of pioneers and carpenters.

King's American Dragoons: raised in February 1781, this unit consisted of six light cavalry troops (of which only four were mounted). In 1783, all its troops received horses and a single battery of light artillery was added.

King's American Regiment: raised in December 1776, it consisted of a line infantry regiment with ten companies (including one of grenadiers and one of light infantry). In 1781, a troop of light dragoons raised in Georgia was attached to the unit.

King's Rangers: this unit was recruited in the Carolinas during 1779 and consisted of ten light infantry companies.

Loyal American Regiment: raised and stationed in New York from April 1777, it had the standard establishment of a British line infantry regiment (at least on paper).

Loyal Foresters: a single company of rangers, raised in New York during April 1781.

Loyal Newport Associators: a single infantry company raised from Newport in 1777.

Loyal New Englanders: a corps with three infantry companies, raised from Newport in April 1777.

Loyal Rhode Islanders: a single infantry company raised from Newport in March 1777.

Maryland Loyalists: this unit, organized in Philadelphia during October 1777, consisted of eight infantry companies with sixty men each.

Nassau Blues: a single company of infantry raised from Long Island in 1779 and disbanded after a few months of service.

New Jersey Volunteers: this corps, one of the largest Loyalist units, was recruited from New Jersey and initially consisted of six numbered infantry battalions (progressively reduced to three). Battalions had a variable number of companies, from a maximum of eight to a minimum of four.

New York Rangers: a single company raised in New York in 1776, it always remained part of the city's garrison.

New York Volunteers: recruited from refugees who had established themselves in New York, this initially consisted of two companies that were later increased to four. A single troop of mounted infantry was added to the corps in September 1780.

New York Volunteer Rifle Company: this small unit was always attached to larger corps, such as the New York Volunteers or Queen's Rangers.

North Carolina Highland Regiment: this unit was made up of loyal Highland settlers who mustered at Brunswick, North Carolina, in February 1776. Initially it had the establishment of a line infantry regiment, but the number of companies was progressively reduced to two and later to just one. In 1783, the corps was merged with the North Carolina Volunteers.

North Carolina Independent Company: small corps organized in 1781 and attached to the New York Volunteers in 1783.

North Carolina Light Dragoons: a single troop of light cavalry, in existence from June 1781 to August 1782.

North Carolina Volunteers: this consisted of a line infantry regiment with ten companies, raised in February 1779.

Pennsylvania Loyalists: raised in Philadelphia during October 1777, it comprised just six infantry companies. Most of its members were Catholics from Ireland. In December 1779, it was temporarily merged with the Maryland Loyalists in order to form the United Corps of Pennsylvania and Maryland Loyalists.

Philadelphia Light Dragoons: this corps consisted of two troops, the first of which was attached to the British Legion and the Queen's Rangers before being absorbed into the King's American Dragoons in 1782.

Prince of Wales' American Regiment: raised in Connecticut during October 1776, it had a standard establishment with ten companies. The corps took part in several combat actions before being disbanded in Canada during 1783.

Provincial Light Infantry: this was a temporary battalion existing between June 1780 and January 1782 that was made up of the light infantry companies from the battalions of the New Jersey Volunteers, De Lancey's Brigade, Prince of Wales' American Regiment, King's American Regiment and Loyal American Regiment.

Queen's Own Loyal Virginia Regiment: raised in December 1775 by the governor of Virginia, it was dissolved for the first time in August 1776. Re-formed as a single company, the unit continued to exist until 1777.

Queen's Rangers: one of the best Loyalist military units, this was organized in August 1776. Its first commander was the famous Robert Rogers, who gave to the unit a distinct ranger character. The Queen's Rangers were structured like most of the contemporary military legions, which comprised sub-units from different branches of service: infantry, cavalry and artillery. From 1777, the unit deployed eight companies of rangers, one company of grenadiers, one company of light infantry, one company of Highlanders, three troops of light dragoons, two troops of hussars and some light artillery pieces. The unit distinguished itself on several occasions and was made part of the new American Establishment in December 1779 as the 1st American Regiment, which was disbanded in October 1783.

Roman Catholic Volunteers: this unit was raised in Philadelphia during July 1777 from Irish Catholics living in Philadelphia. It consisted of four infantry companies, whose members performed auxiliary duties. In October 1778, the corps was disbanded because of its indiscipline.

Royal American Reformees: short-lived corps consisting of nine weak companies, raised in May 1778 from Connecticut.

Royal Foresters: short-lived ranger corps recruited in South Carolina but soon disbanded due to the lack of recruits.

Sandford's Troop of Provincial Cavalry: a single troop of cavalry raised in Philadelphia during 1778 and attached to the Guard Brigade of the British Army.

South Carolina Light Dragoons: a single troop of light dragoons raised in South Carolina in 1781.

South Carolina Rangers: a single company of light infantrymen, raised in June 1780 and disbanded in December 1781.

South Carolina Royalists: initially organized as an infantry battalion in May 1778, this unit was later restructured as one infantry company and eight cavalry troops. Before being disbanded, the unit was finally organized on seven infantry companies. Many members of this corps were ex-slaves, who continued to serve in the Carolina Corps after 1783.

Starckloff's Light Dragoons: a single troop of light dragoons recruited from Hessian soldiers who were already serving in the Thirteen Colonies. Formed in 1781, it was dissolved in 1782.

Officer of the Hesse-Kassel Leib Infantry Regiment in parade dress. (*ASKB*)

Grenadier of the Hesse-Kassel Leib Infantry Regiment. (*ASKB*)

Stark's Corps: one infantry company formed in New Hampshire during December 1776 and disbanded in 1778.

Stewart's Provincial Light Dragoons: a single troop raised and stationed on Staten Island, New York, from 1779, it was merged with the King's American Dragoons in 1782.

Volunteers of New England: small and short-lived corps with just thirty men that was absorbed into the King's American Dragoons during June 1782.

Volunteers of Ireland: raised in Philadelphia in 1778, this corps was made up of Irish Loyalist settlers and had the standard establishment of a line infantry regiment. In May 1779, it was made part of the American Establishment and became a regular unit as the 2nd American Regiment. After fighting with great distinction in the Carolinas, the unit was briefly absorbed into the British line infantry as the 105th Regiment of Foot.

Wentworth's Regiment: despite its official denomination, this unit consisted of a single company raised in New Hampshire during 1777.

West Jersey Volunteers: six companies of infantry raised in New Jersey and disbanded in 1778 after serving for just a few months.

Canada

Artificers: a single company of specialized workers organized in Quebec City during 1775, it was used to repair weapons and carriages.

Batteaumen: three companies, formed at different times during the war, which were tasked with transporting troops and supplies on the major waterways.

Butler's Rangers: this corps, the best ranger unit of the Loyalists, was raised in September 1777 from American Loyalist refugees in Canada. Due to the great tactical capabilities of its commander, John Butler, the corps performed extremely well and was rapidly increased from one to ten companies. Butler's Rangers operated out of Canada for most of the American War of Independence, conducting destructive raids in the very heart of the American territories (New Jersey, Virginia and Kentucky). The rangers were masters of hit-and-run tactics and moved very rapidly across

the densely forested areas of North America. On several occasions they conducted raids alongside contingents of native allies. With the end of hostilities, the unit was disbanded and its members settled in Canada's Niagara Peninsula with their families.

Canadian Companies: in 1775, the majority of the Canadian population consisted of French settlers, who had been forced to accept British dominance following France's defeat in the French–Indian War. The French-speaking communities tried to remain neutral during the American Revolution, since they hated both the Americans and the British with the same intensity. In 1777, with great difficulty, the British authorities were able to raise three infantry companies from the French settlers in Canada. These units served without enthusiasm and two of them were disbanded after the Battle of Saratoga. A good number of Canadians, however, continued to serve as auxiliary *voyageurs* (scouts) for the British Army until the end of the war.

Detroit Volunteers: a single company recruited from fur traders in Detroit during 1777, which mostly performed garrison duties.

Indian Department: the Indian Department, organized in 1755, was the essential instrument of British policy for the wilderness interior of North America. With the support of the native nations and the British Army, it provided fundamental services during the American Revolution. Although the Indian Department was a civilian structure, it was run along military lines and consisted of military officers commissioned by the governor of Canada. The ten captains and twenty lieutenants of the Indian Department were able to mobilize impressive numbers of allied natives during the conflict and provided these irregular contingents with leadership. Among the officers of the Indian Department there was also a native, the Mohawk chief Thayendanegea, commonly known as Joseph Brant, who organized a company of irregular Loyalists which comprised twenty Mohawk warriors together with eighty white volunteers. Brant's raiders lived off plunder and attacked American settlements on several occasions, pillaging and killing with great violence. During the conflict, the Mohawk leader was able to enlarge his war band by recruiting another 200 native warriors and conducted several actions before his company was disbanded at the end of the war. The Iroquois were the most important tribe supporting the British military efforts, operating from their stronghold at Fort Niagara, where they received large amounts of supplies from the Canadian authorities.

King's Loyal Americans: this corps was raised from 100 Loyalist refugees who came to Canada from Albany. It never had a regular organization and was attached to the

King's Royal Regiment of New York for a certain period. The unit was merged with other groups of Loyalists in 1780 in order to form the Loyal Rangers.

King's Royal Regiment of New York: despite its official denomination, this unit was raised in Montreal during 1776 from 200 refugees who came from the surroundings of New York. Initially the corps consisted of a single battalion with ten companies, being expanded to two battalions in 1780. The second battalion, however, never reached its planned establishment of ten companies.

King's Rangers: organized in May 1779, this unit was commanded by Robert Rogers and was intended to consist of two battalions. In the end, however, only three companies were recruited, and these conducted several scouting expeditions inside American territory until being disbanded in 1783.

Leake's Corps: raised as a single company in 1777, it was merged with other minor Loyalist corps in order to form the Loyal Rangers.

Loyal Rangers: established on 12 November 1781, this corps was formed by assembling together several small units of Loyalists and consisted of seven infantry companies. It was commanded by Edward Jussup and most of its members settled in Ontario at the end of the American Revolution.

McKay's Corps: this small unit comprised a single light infantry company, detached from the Queen's Loyal Rangers. It was never considered as a regular corps and was merged with the King's Royal Regiment of New York in 1780.

Provincial Marine: a small naval force had existed in Canada since the days of French colonial rule, operating on the major rivers (including the Saint Lawrence and the Richelieu) as well as on the Great Lakes with small sailing vessels that were lightly armed. The British authorities inherited this naval force from the French and improved its quality significantly. In 1776, some officers and sailors of the Royal Navy were sent to Canada to serve with the Provincial Marine. The force transported large amounts of materials across the Great Lakes and manned several gunboats. Thanks to the Provincial Marine, the Royal Navy exerted complete control over the Great Lakes.

Queen's Loyal Rangers: raised as a battalion in May 1777, this corps never had a regular status and was reduced to a single company after the Battle of Saratoga. In November 1781, the unit was absorbed into the Loyal Rangers.

Musketeer of the Hesse-Kassel Leib Infantry Regiment in parade dress. (*ASKB*)

Royal Highland Emigrants: this large unit, consisting of a regiment with two battalions, was raised in the summer of 1775 from the Highland settlers of Canada. Each battalion was to have ten companies; the first was recruited in the Montreal area from veterans of the 78th Highland Regiment (which had been disbanded in Canada in 1763) and performed extremely well on several occasions. The unit became part of the British Army as the 84th Regiment of Foot on 25 December 1778. The regiment's first battalion was disbanded in 1784, the second having been disbanded in 1783 after being transferred to Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia, St John Island and Newfoundland

Artificers and Labourers: a single company was raised during the early months of 1778 in Newfoundland, and was drafted into the newly established Newfoundland Regiment in 1780.

Hierlihy's Corps of Independent Companies: four independent companies of infantry, later increased to five, served on St John Island.

King's Orange Rangers: consisting of just two companies, this corps was garrisoned in Nova Scotia and was disbanded in May 1782.

Newfoundland Regiment: this corps was established in September 1780 in order to act as the garrison of Newfoundland. It consisted of 300 men in six companies (later reduced to three).

Nova Scotia Volunteers: this small unit, consisting of a single company, was recruited from German and Irish settlers living in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Royal Fencible Americans: raised in Boston in 1775, this corps consisted of two companies and guarded the western access to Nova Scotia.

St John's Island Volunteers: this was a small Provincial company that was organized in order to act as the garrison of St John's Island.

Drummer of the Hesse-Kassel Leib Infantry Regiment. (*ASKB*)

Jager of the Hesse-Kassel contingent. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

Florida

East Florida Rangers: raised in north-eastern Florida and south-eastern Georgia, this corps consisted of just four troops of mounted infantry. In June 1782, it was incorporated into the Georgia Loyalists.

Natchez Volunteers: raised in Natchez, West Florida (modern Mississippi), in March 1781, this corps comprised a single company of infantrymen as well as thirty cavalrymen and twenty gunners.

Military Batteaumen: a single company of provincial auxiliary sailors.

United Corps of Pennsylvania and Maryland Loyalists: this was a temporary battalion consisting of six companies, formed by assembling together the Pennsylvania Loyalists and Maryland Loyalists.

West Florida Loyal Refugees: two cavalry companies recruited from the Loyalists of Pensacola and used to suppress the illegal rum trade in Mobile Bay. A third company was added to the corps for a short period.

West Florida Provincial Regiment: despite its denomination, this unit consisted of a single infantry company that existed for a few weeks during 1780.

West Florida Royal Foresters: one cavalry troop raised in June 1780 and disbanded in August 1782.

West Indies

Amherst's Corps: a single company raised in New York and Charleston during 1780, it was sent to Jamaica and later merged with the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment.

Bahamas Loyal Volunteers: located very near the southern territories of the United States, the Bahamas were greatly exposed to naval incursions during the war. At a certain point of the conflict, a portion of them was occupied by the Spanish, who had formed an alliance with the United States. A total of around 430 volunteer militiamen from the islands that had not been occupied, supported by seventy Loyalists from South Carolina, were organized as a temporary force and expelled the Spanish from the Bahamas shortly before the end of hostilities.

Barbadian Rangers: a single company raised in Barbados during July 1781, it never saw combat and performed only garrison duties.

Carolina Corps: this was a mixed corps consisting of one company of dragoons, one company of artificers and one company of pioneers that was raised in the West Indies during September 1783 from African American Loyalists who had already served in the Carolinas. The unit did not see much action during the American War of Independence, but it was the Loyalist unit with the longest life (it was disbanded only in 1795).

Duke of Cumberland's Regiment: raised for service in Jamaica, this corps consisted of five infantry companies that were soon increased to six. Several members of this unit were American prisoners of war who decided to join the British cause after being captured. In April 1783, the Loyal American Rangers were absorbed into the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment, which was restructured on two battalions.

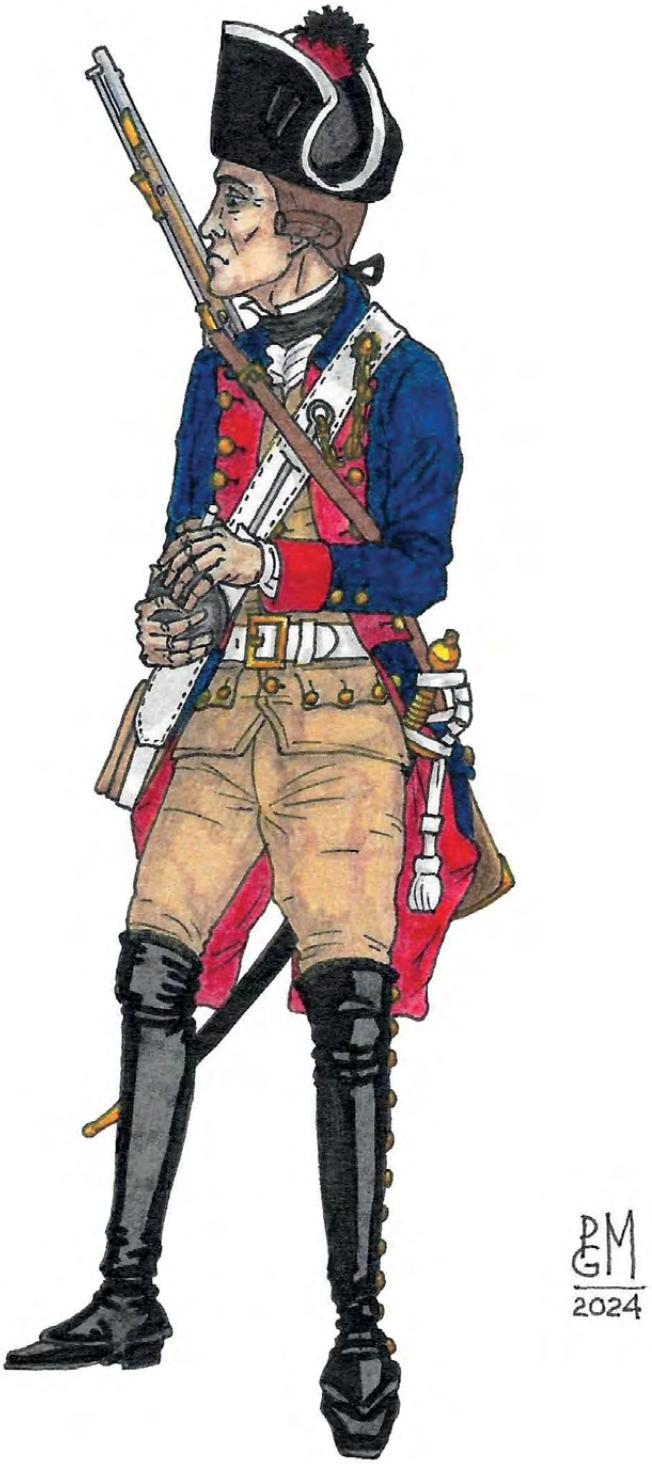
Garrison Battalion: this unit was raised in September 1778 from veterans and invalids who were no longer fit for active service in the Thirteen Colonies. Of the five companies that made up the corps, four were sent to the West Indies (Bermuda and Bahamas), while the other remained in New York. In December 1782, the Garrison Battalion was placed on the establishment of the British regular forces, having been expanded to ten companies.

Independent Companies: these two infantry companies garrisoned the British colony of the Mosquito Coast, which later became known as Belize.

Jamaica Legion: four companies of former sailors, raised in Jamaica during late 1779. In 1780, the corps was absorbed into the Jamaica Volunteers.

Jamaica Rangers: this was the first Loyalist military unit established in the West Indies, consisting of free Blacks/mixed race people and being raised during October 1777. In 1782, in order to replace the British regular garrison of Jamaica with some volunteer local units, the Jamaica Rangers were rapidly expanded, organized as three short-lived battalions.

Jamaica Volunteers: raised in 1779, this corps consisted of five infantry companies. It participated in some operations in Central America before being incorporated into the Independent Companies of the Mosquito Coast.



Artilleryman of the Hesse-Kassel contingent.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

Lewis' Corps of Light Dragoons: a single troop raised in Jamaica during 1780 and soon incorporated into the Independent Companies.

Loyal American Rangers: this unit, mostly recruited from American prisoners of war and Loyalist refugees, was initially raised to conduct an attack against Spanish Cuba. It consisted of six companies, which mostly remained on garrison duty in Jamaica. The corps was absorbed into the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment in 1783.

Mosquito Shore Volunteers: three small companies of free Blacks raised in Belize during November 1779, which were later absorbed into the Independent Companies.

Royal Batteaux Corps: a single company of auxiliaries, who were tasked with manning small ships.

Turks and Caicos Islands Company: a single infantry company that was raised to garrison the islands from which it took its name.

Young's Company: a pioneer company made up of slaves hired from their owners and serving in the Mosquito Coast.

Militias

In addition to the volunteer units listed above, the Loyalists raised some militia units in those territories that remained under British control for most of the American Revolution.

New York: at the beginning of the hostilities there were just three units of unpaid volunteers supporting the British Crown (New York Rangers, New York German Company and Royal Bergen Volunteers). As the population of the city was mostly loyal to the British authorities, however, an increasing number of volunteer corps could be recruited and the local militia was reorganized. By 1780, New York had forty companies of City Militia (assembled into four battalions) and ten Associated Companies of unpaid volunteers. The latter comprised the following: the Ordnance Loyal Volunteers, Engineer Volunteers, Quarter Master General's Volunteers, Loyal Commissary Volunteers, Barrack Master General's Volunteers, King's Dock Yard Volunteers, Marine Artillery, New York Rangers, Highland Volunteers and New York Volunteers. As is clear from their names, most of these corps performed auxiliary duties. A new Massachusetts Volunteer Company was later added to the Associated

Officer of Regiment von Rhetz, Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

Companies. Some units of unpaid volunteers were also raised in the counties bordering New York City: the Loyal Westchester Volunteers, Loyal Queen's County Militia, Loyal King's County Militia, Loyal Suffolk Militia and Loyal Refugee Volunteers.

Boston: just a few men from this important city decided to side with the British when Boston was besieged by the Continental Army in 1775. These were organized into the Loyal North British Volunteers (a company raised from Scottish merchants), the Loyal Irish Volunteers (a company raised from Irish merchants) and the Loyal American Associators (organized on three companies).

Carolinas: the city of Charleston organized a Loyalist militia with eleven infantry companies after the arrival of the British in 1780. The city of Camden also raised a Loyalist militia of some sort.

Quebec and Nova Scotia: the militia of Quebec City consisted of two distinct elements, a Milice Canadienne raised from francophone inhabitants and a British Militia raised from anglophone residents. In total, there were some 900 urban militiamen. When the Americans invaded Canada, a company of veterans and a battalion of 400 embodied sailors were added to the existing establishment. Nova Scotia mobilized a total of 500 militiamen in view of an American attack that never materialized.

Chapter 9

German Contingents

Leasing military units to foreign powers like Great Britain or the Netherlands was an important source of income for several German princedoms during the eighteenth century. The Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel, for example, rented out part of its professional military forces several times, a practice that allowed the rulers of the state to maintain a large standing army across several decades (which otherwise would have been difficult to achieve financially). The leasing of professional military units took place according to the Subsidy System, which was introduced by William of Orange in 1672 for the Dutch Army. This was based on rental contracts signed between the Netherlands and other states: according to these, the Dutch paid a rental fee to the German princedoms, the wages of the troops that had been hired and provided the latter with all the necessary supplies. In exchange for this, the German princedoms had to keep the hired units up to strength by sending a sufficient number of new recruits but were freed (albeit temporarily) from the high costs of maintaining a standing army. After the outbreak of the Seven Years' War, Great Britain assembled an army in western Germany with the objective of supporting Frederick the Great in his struggle against France and Austria. This force, known as His Britannic Majesty's Army in Germany, was paid by the British and was mostly tasked with protecting Hanover. The army assembled by Britain in western Germany consisted of contingents from different states: a British expeditionary force, the Hanoverian Army (supported by a small subsidiary contingent from the neighbouring state of Buckenburg, paid by Hanover), the army of Hesse-Kassel and the army of Brunswick. The latter German princedoms had been allies of Britain for several years and had provided troops to the British government according to the Subsidy System during the War of the Austrian Succession. After the Seven Years' War, they continued to be allies of Britain and provided significant military contingents during the American Revolution. The following section outlines the organization and uniforms of the military units of each of the German states that supported Prussia during the Seven Years' War and contributed to the formation of His Britannic Majesty's Army in Germany.

Grenadier of Regiment Riedsel, Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

Hanover

The Hanoverian Army, despite wearing red uniforms that were quite similar to those of the British Army, had very little in common with the latter. Among the armies of the German princedoms, it was one of the largest and most experienced as it had fought against the French on several occasions. In 1756, the infantry of the Hanoverian Army consisted of twenty-seven battalion-sized regiments: twenty-four of musketeers and three of grenadiers. Each regiment comprised seven companies with 122 officers and men each. Every musketeer company included eight grenadiers, who were detached to form a composite grenadier company. The various composite grenadier companies were assembled into the three regiments of grenadiers, which had elite status. The infantry of the Hanoverian Army also included one guard regiment, known as the Fussgarde. This had a large establishment with two battalions, and its grenadiers were not detached from their parent companies, being tasked with bodyguard duties. Each Hanoverian infantry regiment had a staff of nineteen officers and NCOs, except for the Fussgarde, which was twenty strong. In 1758, another two musketeer regiments – with only five companies each and without grenadiers – were added to the existing ones. The Hanoverian musketeers were dressed in red uniforms that were similar in their cut to those of the Prussian infantry: black tricorn with white edging, black cockade and pompom in regimental colour, red coat without collar and with frontal lapels in regimental colour, Prussian-pattern cuffs and turnbacks, brass buttons and white brandenbourgs (decorative knotted lace) on the buttonholes, waistcoat in regimental colour, straw-coloured breeches, white stockings and buff leather equipment. Grenadiers were uniformed like musketeers, but their headgear was a mitre cap entirely made of cloth, with facing-coloured front bearing embroidered decorations and red cloth bag on the back. The point of the mitre was surmounted by a pompom in regimental colour. The elite Fussgarde had dark blue as their regimental colour, golden brandenbourgs (also on the buttonholes of the waistcoat) and golden piping to facings.

The cavalry of the Hanoverian Army consisted of eight cuirassier regiments and four dragoon regiments. The cuirassier units had six companies each, which were assembled into two squadrons, each of which mustered 361 officers and men. One of the cuirassier regiments had guard status and was known as the Leib Regiment (Bodyguard Regiment). The dragoon units were considerably larger than the cuirassier ones, since each of them had eight companies gathered into four squadrons. One of the dragoon regiments had guard status and was known as the Grenadieren zu Pferde (Horse Grenadiers), despite being a dragoon corps. The two guard regiments of the Hanoverian cavalry had distinctive red uniforms. The Leib Regiment had a black

tricorn with silver edging and black cockade, red coat without collar and with frontal lapels in dark blue, red Swedish-pattern cuffs, dark blue turnbacks, silver buttons, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches. The Grenadieren zu Pferde had a mitre cap entirely made of cloth, with black front bearing embroidered decorations and red cloth bag on the back. The point of the mitre was surmounted by a red pompom. The uniform included red coat without collar and with frontal lapels in black, black Swedish-pattern cuffs, red turnbacks, golden buttons, golden aiguillette on the right shoulder, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches. The Hanoverian cuirassiers, despite their denomination, were not equipped with cuirasses, but were dressed more or less like the dragoons. The uniform consisted of the following elements: black tricorn edged in white with black cockade, white coat without frontal lapels and collar, Swedish-pattern cuffs and turnbacks in regimental colour, white metal buttons, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches. Dragoons had frontal lapels on their coats, in regimental colour. One company in each dragoon regiment, being designated as a mounted grenadier unit, had a mitre cap in white.

Like the Prussian Army, the Hanoverian Army included light infantry and light cavalry units belonging to two main categories: one comprised the regular light corps, while the other was made up of Freikorps (mercenaries). At the beginning of the Seven Years' War, the Hanoverian regular troops did not include any light unit. In May 1757, however, a Jager Corps consisting of just two companies was raised. One company was of foot jagers and the other of mounted jagers. The Hanoverian jagers were expanded with the addition of two foot companies in 1758, followed by another mounted company in 1759. The regular light infantrymen distinguished themselves on several occasions, especially after the Jager Corps was placed under the orders of Colonel Freytag, as a result of which it was expanded to comprise six foot companies and six mounted companies. In 1762, the Jager Corps was consolidated as a single battalion with four companies, having absorbed a Freikorps – known as Stockhausen's Jagers – consisting of one grenadier company and four jager companies (two on foot and two mounted). The first Freikorps to enter Hanoverian service was a small detachment of hussars – Luckner's Hussars – that had previously been in Dutch service. Expanded to two companies in 1758, the hussars had the opportunity to show their valour as skirmishers and explorers. As a result, by 1760, they consisted of eight companies assembled into four squadrons. In May 1758, a new Freikorps was raised for Hanoverian service by Captain Scheither. This initially comprised a single company, but by 1761 it had been expanded to include two companies of grenadiers, one company of jagers, four companies of carabiniers (heavy cavalry) and one detachment of artillery. The regular Jager Corps was dressed as follows: black tricorn, dark green coat with dark green frontal facings and Swedish-pattern cuffs,

white metal buttons, dark green waistcoat and straw-coloured breeches. Foot jagers had black gaiters, whereas mounted jagers had black leather boots. The grenadiers of Stockhausen's Jagers wore a peculiar dark green mitre cap similar in shape and dimensions to that used by the Prussian fusiliers. Luckner's Hussars were originally dressed with black mirliton headgear, dark green dolman with yellow frogging and piping to facings, dark green pelisse with black fur edging and red leggings with yellow Hungarian knots embroidered on the front. This dress, however, was later discontinued, being too similar to that worn by a French light cavalry unit. The following new uniform was then introduced: black busby with red cloth bag, white dolman with yellow frogging and piping to facings, red pelisse with black fur edging and white leggings with yellow Hungarian knots embroidered on the front. The carabiniers of Freikorps Scheither had a black tricorn with green cockade, white Kollet jacket in Prussian style with green edging to the front and turnbacks, green Swedish-pattern cuffs, green waistcoat with white edging to the front and straw-coloured breeches. Both the grenadiers and jagers of the corps wore green coats without frontal lapels and with green turnbacks; the folded collar and the Swedish-pattern cuffs were green (with double zig-zag piping in white for grenadiers). The uniform was completed by straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches. The grenadiers had a brown fur cap as headgear, while the jagers had a standard

Musketeer of Regiment Specht, Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

black tricorn. Each company of grenadiers and jagers included a detachment of six sappers, who wore a mitre cap similar to that of the Prussian fusiliers with a green turban wrapped around its main body. The artillerymen of Freikorps Scheither were dressed like the regular gunners of the Hanoverian Army. At the beginning of the Seven Years' War, the Hanoverian Army's artillery consisted of six companies, each with sixty-seven officers and men. These were soon reorganized into four field artillery brigades with two or three companies each. The artillerymen wore a black tricorn edged in yellow, iron grey coat without frontal lapels and collar, red Swedish-pattern cuffs and turnbacks, iron grey waistcoat and straw-coloured breeches.

Attached to the Hanoverian Army was a small subsidiary contingent provided by the state of Buckenburg, which comprised one infantry regiment, one jager company, one carabinier company and one artillery company. The infantry wore a black tricorn with white edging and red-over-white pompom, dark blue coat without frontal lapels with red facings and turnbacks, white waistcoat and breeches. The single grenadier company of the infantry regiment had a brass-fronted fusilier mitre cap as headgear. The jagers wore a black tricorn, dark green coat with yellow folded collar and Swedish-pattern cuffs, no frontal lapels, dark green turnbacks, yellow waistcoat and dark green breeches. The carabiniers had a metal cuirass and helmet painted in black; the latter had a band of dark brown fur wrapped around its main body. The outfit was completed by black coat with red facings and turnbacks, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches. The artillerymen wore a black tricorn, iron grey coat without frontal lapels with black cuffs and red turnbacks, white waistcoat and iron grey breeches.

Hesse-Kassel

The Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel, located in western Germany south of Hanover, had one of the best and largest professional armies of the Holy Roman Empire. In terms of quality and numbers, in Germany, the troops of Hesse-Kassel were inferior only to those of the four major states (Austria, Prussia, Bavaria and Saxony). At the beginning of the Seven Years' War, the Hesse-Kassel infantry consisted of twelve battalion-sized regiments (eleven of musketeers and one of grenadiers), each of which had ten companies. In 1760, the ten companies of each musketeer unit were consolidated into eight, assembled into two battalions with four companies each. At the same time, the practice of drawing eight men from each musketeer company to serve as grenadiers ceased and the two remaining companies from each musketeer regiment were consolidated to form six independent grenadier battalions. In 1756, just one of the infantry regiments had guard status, the Leibgarde zu Fuss. In 1760, however, a new guard infantry regiment was raised and the single grenadier regiment

was given guard status. Following these organizational changes, the new guard infantry regiment formed in 1760 became the 1st Garde, the grenadier regiment became the 2nd Garde and the Leibgarde zu Fuss the 3rd Garde. The 1st Garde had just one battalion, while the 2nd Garde and 3rd Garde had two battalions each. Following these changes, one line infantry regiment was elevated to guard status and became the 4th Garde (also known as the Leib Regiment). Two of the remaining line infantry regiments were later transformed from musketeer units into fusilier ones, but this had little practical consequence. In 1763, the Hesse-Kassel infantry thus consisted of the following units: four guard regiments, seven musketeer regiments and two fusilier regiments. The uniform of the Hesse-Kassel infantry was quite similar to that worn by the contemporary Prussian foot regiments: black tricorn with white edging and pompom in regimental colour, dark blue coat with frontal lapels and turnbacks in regimental colour, no collar, Prussian-pattern cuffs in regimental colour, waistcoat and breeches in regimental colour. Most of the units had white brandenbourgs on the buttonholes; the number, shape and disposition of these distinguished the various regiments. The brandenbourgs of guard regiments were tasselled. Belt equipment was white leather. Grenadiers had Prussian-style mitre caps with pompom in regimental colour and cloth in regimental colour on the back. The embossed frontal plate was white metal. The two fusilier regiments had Prussian-style fusilier caps without pompom but with brass frontal plate.

The Hesse-Kassel cavalry consisted of horse and dragoon regiments. Horse regiments were heavy cavalry units of cuirassiers, but were not equipped with metal cuirasses. There were four horse regiments, with two squadrons each, and two dragoon regiments, both with four squadrons. In 1760, as part of the general reorganization of the Hesse-Kassel military, a small Garde du Corps mounted bodyguard was formed and added to the cavalry establishment. The new unit, however, performed only ceremonial duties. Before 1760, the horse regiments wore a black tricorn with black cockade and golden edging, white frock coat with folded collar and Swedish-pattern cuffs in regimental colour and golden piping to facings, white breeches and black leather boots. They were then given Prussian-style dress consisting of black tricorn with black cockade and golden edging, buff-coloured Kollet with facings in regimental colour and golden piping to facings, buff-coloured breeches and black leather boots. In 1760, the Hesse-Kassel heavy cavalry was issued with metal cuirasses painted in black. The dragoon regiments were uniformed like those of the Prussian Army, with a black tricorn with black cockade and white plume having the base in regimental colour, dark blue coat with frontal lapels and turnbacks in regimental colour, no collar, Swedish-pattern cuffs in regimental colour, straw-coloured waistcoat and buff-coloured breeches. In 1760, the colour of the coats was

changed from dark blue to light blue. In addition to the cuirassiers and dragoons, the Hesse-Kassel cavalry included a regiment of hussars. This had been formed in 1744 when Hesse-Kassel leased some of its forces to Great Britain in order to fight in Scotland during the Jacobite Rising. The unit was created as a single squadron with two companies, but in 1756 it was expanded to comprise two squadrons. With the reorganization of 1760, the Husaren-Korps came to comprise four squadrons. The uniform of the Hesse-Kassel hussars was as follows: brown busby with red cloth bag, light blue dolman with yellow frogging and red facings, light blue pelisse edged with brown fur and light blue leggings.

The Hesse-Kassel regular light troops consisted of a small Jager Corps with two foot companies, which from August 1759 were supplemented by two mounted companies. The jagers wore a black tricorn, dark green coat with red frontal lapels and turnbacks, red folded collar and Swedish-pattern cuffs, dark green waistcoat and breeches. A single Freikorps was raised by Hesse-Kassel during the Seven Years' War, this being a light infantry battalion known as the Chasseur Battalion von Rall. They wore a black tricorn with white edging and green pompom, light blue coat with green frontal lapels and turnbacks, no collar and green Swedish-pattern cuffs, green waistcoat and breeches. The Hesse-Kassel artillery consisted of just two companies in 1756, which were increased to three in 1757 and five in 1760. These were responsible for the heavy pieces only, as the battalion guns of the infantry units were manned by a few gunners attached to the foot regiments. By the end of the Seven Years' War, the battalion guns were manned by four autonomous artillery companies. All the Hesse-Kassel artillerymen were uniformed as follows: black tricorn with white edging and red pompom, dark blue coat with red frontal lapels and turnbacks, red folded collar and Prussian-pattern cuffs, dark blue waistcoat and breeches. The Hesse-Kassel regular military were supported by a territorial militia known as the Landmiliz, which was mostly tasked with performing garrison and police duties. The militia was originally organized on three infantry regiments. These were transformed into one Garrison Grenadier Battalion and three Garrison Battalions (all with four companies each) in 1760. The Hesse-Kassel militiamen wore a black tricorn with white edging, dark blue coat without frontal lapels and collar, red turnbacks and Swedish-pattern cuffs, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches.

Brunswick

The small state of Brunswick, located in the heart of central Germany, was a loyal ally of both Great Britain and Prussia well before the outbreak of the Seven Years' War. It had a small but efficient military, with significant combat experience. The Brunswick

Officer of Battalion von Barner (light infantry companies), Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

infantry consisted of four battalion-sized regiments, each of which comprised five musketeer companies and one grenadier company. The grenadier companies of each unit, in time of war, were usually detached from their parent regiments and assembled together in order to form two provisional grenadier battalions with two companies each. In 1759, the two grenadier battalions were expanded to three and became permanent corps, independent from the line infantry. Also in 1759, the Brunswick infantry was enlarged with the formation of two new battalions: an elite one having guard status (the Leib-Grenadiere Garde) and a fusilier one being assigned garrison duties (the Fusilier-Bataillon von Volschen). The general appearance of the Brunswick infantry was very 'Prussian', its uniform consisting of the following elements: black tricorn with black cockade and white edging, dark blue coat with frontal lapels and turnbacks in regimental colour, folded collar and Swedish-pattern cuffs in regimental colour, white waistcoat and breeches. The grenadier companies and battalions wore a mitre cap as headgear, which had the cloth on the back in regimental colour, a white metal frontal plate and a pompom in regimental colour. Belt equipment was white for all foot units.

The Brunswick cavalry of 1756 consisted of a single unit, a dragoon regiment with four companies. In 1759, this was converted to become a carabinier regiment and was expanded to six companies assembled into three squadrons. Until, 1759 the uniform of the corps was as follows: black tricorn with black cockade, golden scalloped edging and yellow pompom, a red coat without frontal lapels, yellow folded collar and Swedish-pattern cuffs, yellow turnbacks and brandenbourgs on the buttonholes, yellow waistcoat and breeches. A new dress, very similar to that of the Prussian cuirassiers, was introduced in 1759: black tricorn with black cockade, golden scalloped edging and yellow pompom, buff-coloured Kollet with red facings, buff-coloured breeches and black leather boots. The uniform was worn with a metal cuirass that was painted black. Also in 1759, the Brunswick cavalry was expanded with the formation of a new hussar regiment, having four companies, expanded to six in 1761. The unit was raised with British funds but became an important component of the Brunswick military. Its uniform consisted of a tall grey busby with yellow cloth bag and white plume having a red base, yellow dolman with white frontal frogging and edging to facings, violet collar, violet pelisse with white fur edging, and yellow leggings with white Hungarian knots embroidered on the front.

Until 1759, Brunswick had no regular light units, but in that year a small Jager Corps was formed. This comprised three foot companies and two mounted companies. It was expanded in 1762 with the addition of one foot company and one mounted company. The corps also had two light artillery pieces, manned by thirteen gunners. The Brunswick jagers wore a black tricorn with green pompom, medium green

Soldier of the Jager Company, Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

coat without frontal lapels, with red folded collar and turnbacks (straw-coloured for mounted companies), medium green waistcoat and straw-coloured breeches. In 1762, a new light infantry battalion was raised, known as the Light Infantry Battalion von Barner. They wore a black tricorn edged in white with half-white and half-yellow pompom, dark blue coat without frontal lapels, black folded collar, Swedish-pattern cuffs and red turnbacks, white waistcoat and breeches. The first Freikorps in Brunswick service was also raised in 1762, the Volontaires Auxiliares de Bronswick, which comprised three companies of grenadiers and three of cavalry (one of mounted grenadiers, one of hussars and one of Bosniaken, or lancers). It was mostly recruited from Balkan deserters or prisoners of war from the Austrian Army. The foot grenadiers wore a mitre cap similar to that of the Prussian fusiliers, light blue coat with green facings, green waistcoat and straw-coloured breeches. The mounted grenadiers were dressed like the foot ones, but their coats were dark blue instead of light blue. The hussars had a tall black busby with yellow cloth bag, dark blue dolman with yellow frontal frogging and facings, dark blue pelisse with black fur edging, and dark blue leggings with yellow Hungarian knots embroidered on the front. The Bosniaken were dressed like those of the Prussian Army, with dark grey kaftan with white trimming and light blue baggy trousers. Their headgear was a red fez wrapped in a white turban. The Brunswick artillery consisted of just three companies during the Seven Years' War. Its members were uniformed as follows: black tricorn with yellow edging, dark blue coat without frontal lapels and collar, red Swedish-pattern cuffs and turnbacks, straw-coloured waistcoat and breeches.

As already mentioned, several German states of the Holy Roman Empire were allies of Great Britain during the American War of Independence and rented part of their military forces to the British Crown for service in the Thirteen Colonies. The House of Hanover, which had ruled Britain since 1714, came from Germany, where it reigned over the Electorate of Hanover – one of the most important princedoms of the Holy Roman Empire – and was an important player in German politics during the eighteenth century. Great Britain and Hanover had different political institutions and were governed as autonomous entities, but were ruled by the same monarch. Largely to defend Hanover from France, Britain sent significant military forces to Germany during the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War. Generally speaking, the German soldiers supporting Britain during the American Revolution are defined as mercenaries in most sources. but this term is used in a quite incorrect way. The Germans were professional soldiers who were sent by one prince to serve at the orders of another prince, not mercenaries selling their services to a private individual. What follows is an analysis of the military forces sent by each German states that supported Britain in operations during the American Revolution.

Officer of the Dragoon Regiment Prinz Ludwig Ernst, Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

Hesse-Kassel: the Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel rented out part of its professional armed forces several times during the eighteenth century, which, as we have seen, allowed the state's rulers to maintain a large standing army. The army of Hesse-Kassel was well trained and well equipped, most of its members being battle-hardened veterans with great combat experience. From a numerical standpoint, the Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel was the German princedom that provided the most soldiers to Great Britain, with some 12,000 men serving in the American colonies. According to the agreement signed with Britain, Hesse-Kassel was to provide the following units for service in North America: fifteen regiments of line infantry, one regiment of grenadiers, two companies of jagers and three companies of artillery. The order of battle of the contingent provided by the Landgraviate was as follows: Leib Infantry Regiment; Fusilier Regiment von Lossberg; Fusilier Regiment von Dittfurth; Fusilier Regiment Erbprinz; Fusilier Regiment von Knyphausen; Fusilier Regiment von Lossburg; Musketeer Regiment von Donop; Musketeer Regiment von Trumbach; Musketeer Regiment von Mirbach; Musketeer Regiment Prinz Carl; Musketeer Regiment von Wutginau; Garrison Regiment von Bunau; Garrison Regiment von Huyne; Garrison Regiment von Stein; Garrison Regiment von Wissenbach; Grenadier Regiment von Rall; Jager Corps; and Artillery Companies.

The fifteen regiments of line infantry, be they fusilier or musketeer units, all had the same internal organization, with a regimental staff and eight companies assembled into two battalions. The regimental staff consisted of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, one major, one adjutant, one quartermaster, one judge-advocate, one chaplain, one surgeon, one wagon master, one drum major, one armourer, one provost, one assistant provost, two drivers and six musicians. Each line infantry company was made up of four officers, twelve NCOs, one junior surgeon, one clerk, three drummers and 105 privates. Garrison regiments, which were employed on the field of battle only when absolutely necessary, had the same internal organization. The line infantry regiments had no grenadier companies because the army of Hesse-Kassel had separate units that were entirely made up of grenadiers; one of these, Grenadier Regiment von Rall, was sent to the Thirteen Colonies. This regiment consisted of four battalions, each of which had four grenadier companies: Grenadier Battalion von Linsing, Grenadier Battalion von Block, Grenadier Battalion von Minnigerode and Grenadier Battalion von Koehler. The Jager Corps was an elite unit recruited from the most experienced hunters and foresters of the Landgraviate. It initially consisted of just two companies but was later increased to six at the request of Great Britain. Of these, five served on foot and one was mounted, its members acting as mounted infantry and being highly mobile. The three companies of artillery were very professional units, each of which comprised five officers, fourteen NCOs, three drummers and 129 privates.

Trooper of the Dragoon Regiment Prinz Ludwig Ernst, Brunswick contingent. (*ASKB*)

Brunswick: the Duchy of Brunswick was the first German princedom to sign a treaty of military assistance with Great Britain on 9 January 1776. According to this, the German state was to provide four regiments of line infantry, one battalion of grenadiers, one battalion of light infantry, one corps of jagers and one regiment of dragoons. The terms of the treaty were very precise, as the duchy was experiencing serious economic trouble at the time: the German soldiers were paid an advance of two months and their prince received a certain sum of money for each fallen private. The Duke of Brunswick, however, was to replace at his own expense any soldier who deserted or fell sick. The order of battle of the Brunswick contingent was as follows: Musketeer Regiment Riedesel; Musketeer Regiment Specht; Line Infantry Regiment Prinz Friedrich; Line Infantry Regiment von Rhetz; Light Infantry Battalion von Barner; Jager Company von Geyso; and Dragoon Regiment Prinz Ludwig Ernst.

The four regiments of line infantry, despite having different denominations, all had the same internal organization, with a regimental staff and four companies of line infantry. The light infantry battalion and grenadier battalion also had four companies apiece, the light battalion including one company of jagers equipped with rifled muskets. The line infantry regiments did not have grenadier companies. The single company of jagers was an elite unit whose members were all excellent marksmen. The regiment of dragoons was the only cavalry unit provided by the German princedoms for service in the Thirteen Colonies and was the sole heavy cavalry corps deployed by Britain in North America. The unit arrived in the American colonies without horses and served on foot during the entire conflict. It consisted of four squadrons, which were soon re-equipped as normal line infantry.

Hesse-Hanau: the County of Hesse-Hanau was a semi-appendage of Hesse-Kassel and was a much smaller state. It provided one regiment of line infantry, one corps of light infantry, one corps of jagers and one company of artillery: Musketeer Regiment Erbprinz; Janecke's Freikorps of Light Infantry; Creuzbourg's Jager Corps; and Pausch's Artillery Company.

The line infantry unit consisted of one grenadier company and four musketeer companies, while the light infantry corps was made up of five companies that were recruited from volunteers (four of light infantrymen and one of jagers). The jager unit consisted of a single company and the artillery company had six field pieces.

Anspach-Bayreuth: this small German state provided two battalions of line infantry, one company of jagers and one company of artillery to Great Britain. This was the order of battle of its contingent: 1st Line Infantry Battalion Anspach; 2nd Line Infantry Battalion Bayreuth; Jager Company; and Artillery Company.

The two line infantry battalions had four companies of fusiliers each and could be assembled together to form a single regiment with eight companies. The Jager Company was very well trained, and the Artillery Company had six field pieces.

Anhalt-Zerbst: this small German princedom sent one regiment of infantry to the Thirteen Colonies. Known as the Anhalt-Zerbst Regiment, it consisted of one line battalion and one light battalion, with four companies each. Members of the light battalion were known as pandours, as they were mercenary semi-regular soldiers who were recruited from the Slavic lands of the Austrian Empire in the Balkans. The pandours proved to be excellent light infantry skirmishers but were mostly employed as garrison troops.

Waldeck: the small state of Waldeck provided a single line infantry unit to Britain, the 3rd Waldeck Regiment. This consisted of one company of grenadiers and four companies of fusiliers, plus an artillery detachment with twelve gunners and two bombardiers.

Hanover: the Electorate of Hanover did not provide any troops for service in North America, but several of its units were used by the British Crown to garrison key locations in the Mediterranean and India. The following units were mobilized by the Electorate of Hanover: Line Infantry Battalion von Reden; Line Infantry Battalion von Hardenberg; Line Infantry Battalion la Motte; Line Infantry Battalion Prinz Ernst von Mecklenburg; Line Infantry Battalion von Goldacker; 14th Line Infantry Regiment; and 15th Line Infantry Regiment.

Three of the battalions were sent to Gibraltar and two to Menorca. The two infantry regiments were despatched to India. Each battalion comprised six companies of fusiliers and one company of grenadiers. The regiments, despite their different official denomination, had the same internal composition as the battalions.

Uniforms

The infantry of Hesse-Kassel wore uniforms of Prussian cut, which were dark blue with facings in the distinctive colour of each regiment. Grenadiers wore the peculiar mitre cap, while members of the garrison regiments had coats without frontal lapels. The jagers were dressed in dark green with red facings and had a black tricorn, while the artillery had dark blue coats with red facings. The line infantrymen of Brunswick were uniformed in dark blue with facings in the distinctive colour of each regiment. The Light Infantry Battalion von Barner wore a dark blue coat without frontal lapels

(except for the company of jagers, which had the same coat in green). The jagers were uniformed in dark green with crimson facings, and the dragoons were dressed in medium blue with yellow facings. The line infantrymen of Hesse-Hanau had a dark blue coat with red facings, worn with a black tricorn by musketeers and a mitre cap by grenadiers. The artillery was dressed similarly to the infantry, while the jagers had dark green coats with red facings. Janecke's Freikorps wore a dark green coat with red folded collar and round cuffs, without frontal lapels. The light infantry companies had a black tricorn, and the jager company had a black light infantry cap. The contingent of Anhalt-Zerbst was the only German force in the Thirteen Colonies to be dressed with Austrian-style white uniforms and not Prussian-style dark blue ones. The Pandour Battalion had a peculiar Balkan-style headgear; members of the other battalion had the same coat, which was worn with a black tricorn by musketeers and a black fur cap by grenadiers. The line infantry of Anspach-Bayreuth had a black tricorn and dark blue coat, with red facings for the 1st Battalion and black facings for the 2nd Battalion. The Jager Company had the uniform that was common (with minor differences) to all the jager units of the German princedoms. The artillery had a black tricorn and dark blue coat with red facings. The single infantry regiment provided by Waldeck was in dark blue with yellow facings.

Chapter 10

The Uniforms of the British Forces

Line Infantry

Among the infantrymen of the various European armies, the British units of 1775–83 probably wore the smartest and most distinctive uniforms of their age. Red, the characteristic colour of the British infantry since the years of Cromwell's New Model Army, was worn by all the foot regiments. The standard headgear for the officers was the cocked hat with three folds, which was adorned by a black cockade held in place by a golden loop and a button. The headgear was edged with silver lace. The tricorn of the soldiers did not have the silver edging but was adorned by the usual black cockade, with a black loop rather than the golden one of the officers' headgear. The cockade of the officers' hat was occasionally surmounted by a small black plume. To prevent the tricorn from falling off, two narrow tapes were sewn into its lining and passed down (around the back of the head) to be joined by a hook-and-eye. The grenadiers, sappers and musicians of the various line infantry units wore a tall fur cap, which made them very easy to recognize on the field of battle. The bearskin had the fur rising towards the top in a tapered point, and on the rear it carried a red patch that was often embroidered with the regimental number or a regimental symbol (usually in white). On the front, the fur cap had a black lacquered plate, which was ornamented with white metal decorations. This usually consisted of the British coat-of-arms, with the letters 'G' and 'R' (for 'George Rex') on the sides placed under the motto '*NEC ASPERA TERRENT*' ('difficulties be damned'). The pattern of the decorations, however, could vary greatly from unit to unit. The bearskin was also decorated with knotted worsted cords and tassels, which were suspended on the right side of the headgear. The cords and tassels were silver for officers, gilt for NCOs and white for rankers. On the back of the cap, under the red patch, was a metal badge, which consisted of a flaming grenade for grenadiers, a crossed axe and saw for sappers and a drum for musicians. Sometimes a white plume could be worn on the right side of the headgear.

The British infantry was dressed with a long-tailed red coat, which was worn open from the neck and sloped away at the waist. The main colour of this item of dress was scarlet, with collar and cuffs in the distinctive colour of each regiment. The

lapels on the front of the coat were also in this colour, while the turnbacks were white except for those regiments that had buff as their distinctive colour (which had buff turnbacks). The skirt and linings over which the coat was worn were white for most of the regiments and buff for those that had buff facings (collar, cuffs and lapels). The scarlet coats had horizontal pockets on the turnbacks and sometimes their buttonholes could be decorated with some additional lace. Each coat could be worn with the lapels buttoned over or folded back in order to show the regiment's colour, a practice that was popular only on campaign. A white waistcoat was worn under the coat. Dark blue was the facing colour of the three Guard regiments as well as all the units which had the title 'Royal' in their official denomination. The collar of the coat was a folded one, while the cuffs were round. Collar, frontal lapels, cuffs, pockets and buttonholes of the officers' coats were all piped in gold. The officers' rank was shown by golden epaulettes that were worn on the shoulders. The number (one or two) and the position (right shoulder or left shoulder) of the epaulettes indicated rank. NCOs and soldiers had normal red shoulder straps. Officers could be easily recognized also thanks to the use of another two peculiar elements: a golden gorget worn under the neck and a red silk sash around the waist. The gorget bore the regiment's number for most units, except for the Foot Guards and some 'old' regiments that had the privilege of bearing the Royal Cypher or a regimental symbol. NCOs wore a red sash around the waist, which was similar to that used by officers but had a central band in the distinctive colour of each regiment. Regiments having purple or red as their facing colour had this central band in white. Colour sergeants – those bearing the flags of their units – were armed with a distinctive spontoon (a short pike).

All line infantrymen wore white breeches, which were used in combination with black woollen gaiters during winter and with white ones in the summer. Sometimes brown trousers could be used on campaign. NCOs and rankers of all units had black shoes, while the officers wore black leather boots. The standard personal equipment for a line infantryman comprised a white sling for the musket, a white crossbelt for the cartridge pouch, a white crossbelt for the bayonet scabbard, a black cartridge pouch, a black bayonet scabbard, a white canvas haversack, a wooden water bottle (usually painted pale blue) with dark brown sling and a canvas knapsack. The knapsack had two white shoulder straps, connected on the chest by a horizontal belt of the same colour. Officers had a single white crossbelt for the sword. Flank companies (grenadiers and light infantry) did not have shoulder straps but instead shoulder wings, which had white embroidering and wool edging. The musicians of each regiment wore the same uniform as the other soldiers, but with reversed colours: the coat was in the distinctive colour of each unit, while the facings were scarlet. The musicians of regiments having black as their distinctive colour were the only exception to this rule, since they wore

white coats with black facings. Those musicians with white or buff coats had scarlet linings instead of the usual white ones. The musicians' coats were decorated with additional stripes of lace on the seams and had shoulder wings. The colour and decorative design of the lace was chosen by the commander of each regiment, and thus was different for each unit. The musicians' coats were also decorated with strips of cloth (usually in a 'V' shape) that were worn on the sleeves and had the same colour/decorative design as the seams' lace.

Highland Units

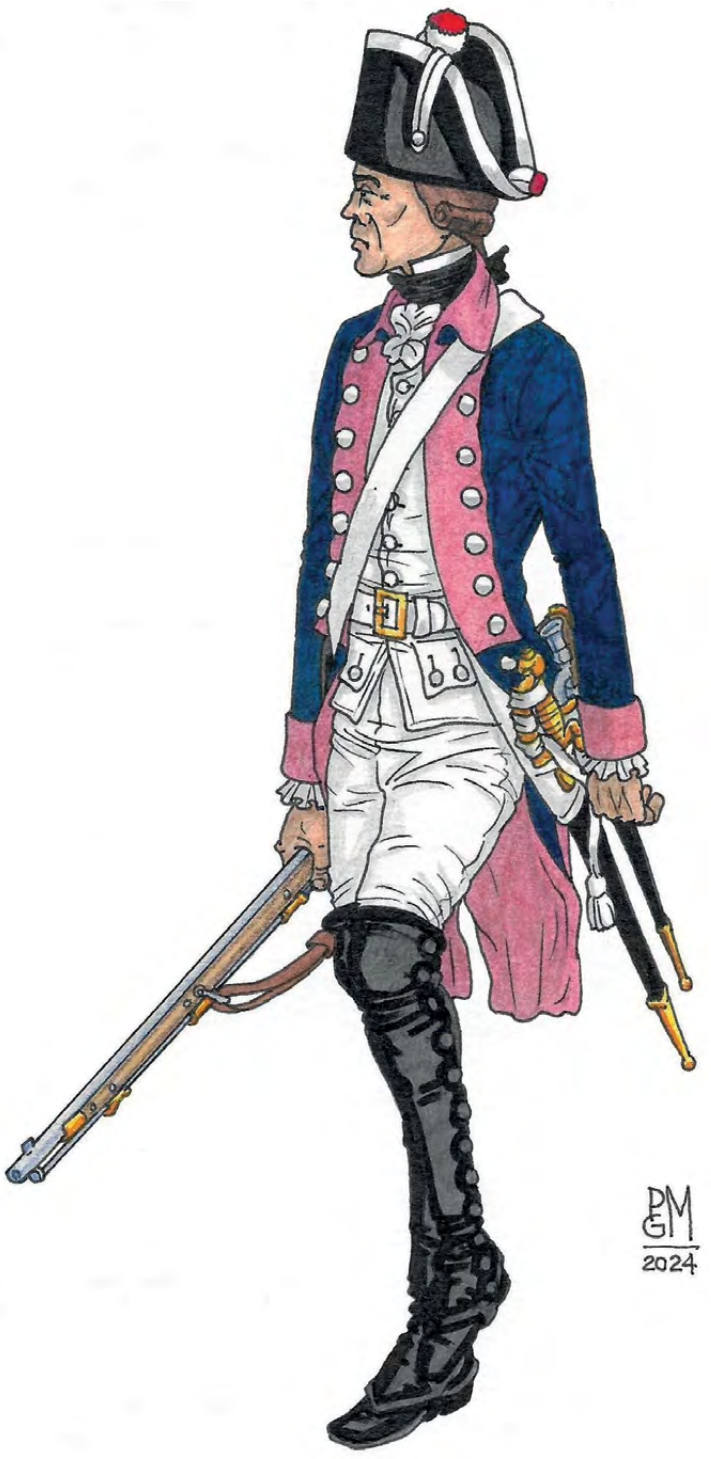
The standard headgear of the Highland regiments was the Kilmarnock bonnet, which was dark blue and could be fitted with a removable peak on the front if required. Around the Kilmarnock there was a chequered band of white, red and green or of white and red, known as Sutherland dicing. On the back of the bonnet were two black tails, which lay across the neck, while on the top was a red pompom (known as a tourie) made of wool. The Kilmarnock could also have decorative ostrich feathers sewn around the stiff blue cloth of the cap. These were of two different kinds that were combined together: the shorter flats and the longer foxtails. The feathers (clipped and fastened on a stem) were worn on the left of the Kilmarnock and were held in position by a black cockade, which had a metal button that bore the regimental number. Highland grenadiers wore the same fur caps as their English equivalents. The tunic and waistcoat of the Highland regiments were the same as worn by all the other units of the British infantry, although officers and NCOs wore their distinctive sashes over the left shoulder and not

Line infantry musketeer of the Hesse-Hanau contingent. (*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

around the waist. All the belt equipment of Highland units was black leather, and they wore their ammunition pouch on the belly and not on the back. The Highland regiments wore their traditional Scottish kilts instead of trousers, made from the distinctive pattern of tartan cloth known as Government's Sett. From a distance, the dark green and dark blue colour of the kilt looked black, and thus the 42nd Regiment of Foot that served in North America received its famous nickname of the Black Watch. The Highland company of the Queen's Rangers initially wore a different kind of kilt, of the McNabb Clan's pattern, but this small Highland unit also eventually received the Government's Sett like all the other corps. The colour of the tartan cloth with which the kilts were produced varied according to each clan in Scotland. On the front of their kilts, the Highlanders wore the characteristic sporran pouch and usually carried a *sgian-dubh* (anglicised as 'skene-dhu') single-edged knife. Together with black shoes, the Highlanders wore their traditional hose socks that were made with white and red tartan for all regiments. During the American Revolution, for practical reasons, many Highlanders replaced their kilts on campaign with trousers made from tartan cloth. These, known as trews, became extremely popular for everyday use. The peculiarities of the Highlanders included another two elements: the use of the famous Scottish basket-hilted broadsword (the Claymore) and the tartan Full Plaid that was worn on the left shoulder. The musicians of the Highland units played bagpipes rather than drums. On campaign, especially in the light infantry companies, the kilt could be replaced by simple brown trousers. The Highland company of the Queen's Rangers wore a simple green jacket instead of the red coat with coloured lapels that was used by the Highland regiments of the regular army.

Light Infantry

The members of the light companies were dressed like the standard line infantrymen, but with two differences: they had a distinctive headgear and wore shoulder wings like the grenadiers. The shape of the light infantry's headgear was different for each company, according to the personal taste of the regiment's commander. Usually, however, the headgear was a round leather cap with a frontal plate that could be decorated in many different ways but usually bore the regiment's number. The light infantry cap could be ornamented with plumes and feathers in different colours, and its frontal plate could have a white external edging. The light company of the Guard Brigade had a peculiar wide-brimmed hat. Over time, the light infantrymen replaced their white belt equipment with a new black one. The musicians of the light companies played small hunting horns instead of the usual drums. By the end of the war, most of the British light infantrymen started to wear single-breasted short



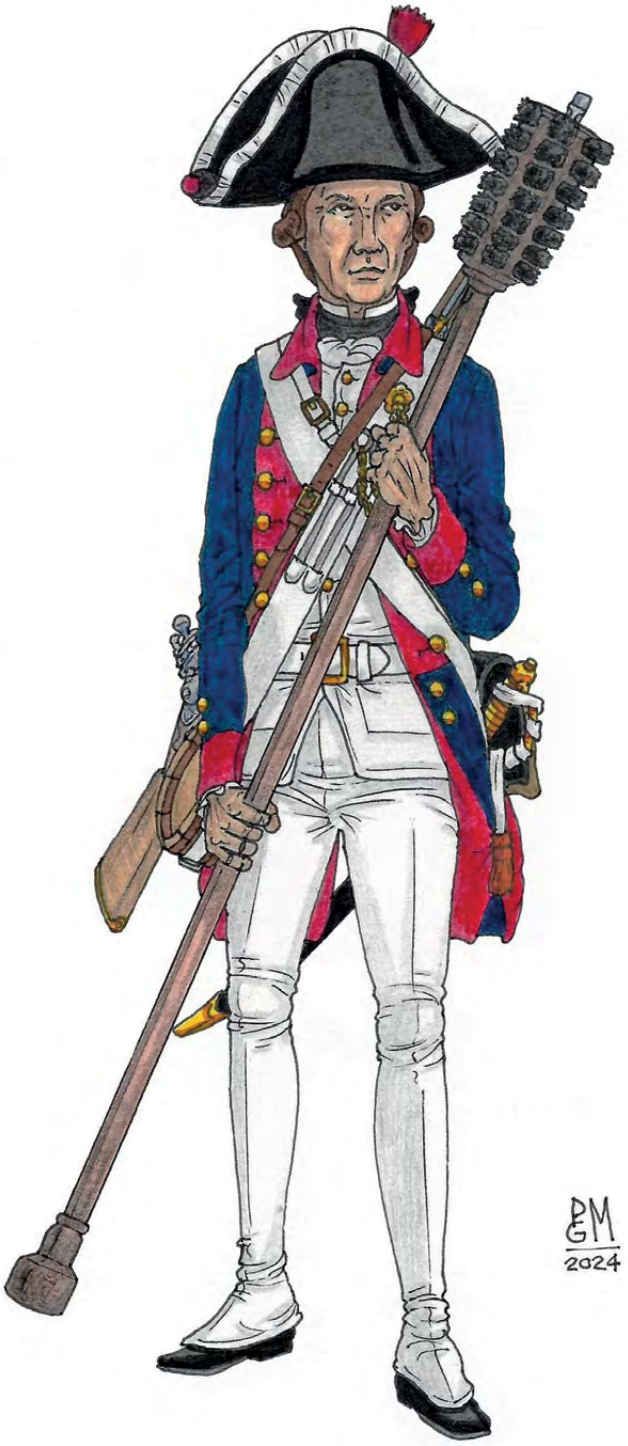
Artilleryman of the Hesse-Hanau contingent.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

jackets without frontal lapels and adopted a new kind of headgear, a black wide-brimmed hat with a turned-up left side that was decorated with a black cockade and plume. The pioneers of the light infantry regiments were dressed similarly to the grenadiers, but wore a leather apron and carried working tools (an axe and saw).

Cavalry, Artillery and Royal Marines

The uniform of the Life Guards included a black tricorn with yellow external edging, black cockade with yellow lace holder and white and red plume. They wore a red coat with dark blue collar patches and round cuffs, dark blue frontal lapels, dark blue shoulder straps with yellow piping and fringes. There were additional stripes of yellow lace on the buttonholes of the collar patches (two), front of the coat (eight), cuffs (one) and sleeves (three), and the buttonholes on the cuffs and sleeves were V-shaped. The uniform was completed by white turnbacks, white trousers, black leather tall boots and white leather belt equipment. The uniform of the Horse Guards was similar to that of the Life Guards, but it had dark blue as its main colour instead of red. They wore a black tricorn with yellow external edging, black cockade with yellow lace holder and white and red plume, and a dark blue coat with red collar patches and round cuffs, red frontal lapels, red shoulder straps with yellow piping and fringes, and additional stripes of yellow lace on the buttonholes of the collar patches (two), front of the coat (eight), cuffs (one) and sleeves (three). The buttonholes on the cuffs and sleeves were V-shaped, and they had white turnbacks, buff trousers, black leather tall boots and buff leather belt equipment. Officers of both the Life Guards and the Horse Guards had all the yellow elements listed above in gold and wore a red sash wrapped around the waist, while their rank was shown by golden epaulettes and contre-epaulettes that were worn on the shoulders instead of the shoulder straps.

The uniform of the heavy cavalry (Dragoon Guards, Horse Regiments and Dragoon Regiments) included a black tricorn with white and red plume and black cockade with yellow lace holder, and a red coat with collar and round cuffs in regimental colour, frontal lapels in regimental colour, additional stripes of yellow lace on the buttonholes of the collar (one), front of the coat (eight in four couples), cuffs (one) and sleeves (three), and the buttonholes on the cuffs and sleeves were V-shaped. They also had white turnbacks, white trousers, black leather tall boots and white leather belt equipment. Officers had all the yellow elements listed above in gold and wore a red sash wrapped around the waist, and their rank was denoted by golden epaulettes and contre-epaulettes on the shoulders. The Light Dragoons were dressed like the heavy cavalry, but wore a black leather helmet instead of the tricorn. The helmet was different for each regiment and could be decorated with different kinds of crest; the



Pandour of the Anhalt-Zerbst contingent.
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Line infantry NCO of the Anspach-Bayreuth contingent.
(*Colour plate by Patricio Greve Moller, copyright of Gabriele Esposito*)

frontal plate usually bore the unit's number but could also reproduce peculiar symbols (such as a skull and crossbones in the case of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons). The shoulder straps, which were in regimental colour, could be decorated with fringes.

The Royal Artillery was dressed with dark blue long-tailed coats, which were worn open from the neck and sloped away at the waist. The folded collar, round cuffs, shoulder straps and frontal lapels were red, like the turnbacks. The buttonholes of the collar, frontal lapels, cuffs and pockets were all decorated with yellow lace. The skirt and linings over which the coat was worn were white, like the waistcoat and the trousers. The headgear was a black tricorn with yellow external edging, black cockade and white plume, but this was frequently replaced in the field by a black leather helmet with red crest. The officers of the Royal Engineers were dressed like those of the Foot Artillery, but the facing colour of their uniform was black instead of red. They did not have additional yellow lace on the buttonholes of their tunic. The Marines were always dressed in red, like the line infantry of the British Army, and were given the nickname of 'Lobsters' by the sailors who served with them on the warships of the Royal Navy. Their uniform was as follows: black tricorn with white external edge and black cockade, red long-tailed coat with white collar and round cuffs, white shoulder straps, white frontal lapels, white waistcoat and trousers, black gaiters and white leather belt equipment. Grenadiers had the same fur caps as their line infantry equivalents, whereas light infantrymen wore a pill-box cap.

Loyalist Units

Most of the Loyalist military units were dressed in green, which differentiated them from both the Continentals (who were dressed in blue) and the British regulars (dressed in red). The British Legion commanded by Tarleton wore a simple but elegant green uniform, which comprised the famous headgear that soon became known as the Tarleton helmet. This was adopted as the official headgear of all the British Light Dragoons in 1784 and remained extremely popular until the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The infantry of the British Legion had a Tarleton helmet and a green coat with facings of the same colour. The Queen's Rangers were a very composite corps, which comprised the following sub-units: eight companies of rangers, one company of grenadiers, one company of light infantry, one company of Highlanders, three troops of light dragoons and two troops of hussars. The ranger companies were dressed with black leather cap and a single-breasted short jacket. The grenadiers had white shoulder wings and their headgear consisted of a black cylindrical fur cap with a white metal half-moon badge on the front and a black and green frontal plume. Light infantrymen were dressed like the rangers, but had white shoulder wings and the plume of their

headgear was white. The light dragoons wore a Tarleton helmet and had a double-breasted short jacket with folded collar and pointed cuffs, while the hussars wore the same jacket as the light dragoons and their headgear was like that worn by the grenadiers, with an additional bag of green cloth on the left side. All the sub-units were uniformed in the same dark green colour. Butler's Rangers had two different uniforms: a conventional one, consisting of black tricorn and dark green coat with red facings, and the campaign one, which comprised a fringed hunting shirt and a light infantry cap with brass frontal plate. The Loyalist corps included several Highland units, which were all dressed quite similarly. The King's Royal Regiment of New York had a green coat with red facings; its light company wore a black wide-brimmed round hat with the brim turned up on the left side, while the other companies of the unit had a standard black tricorn. The Loyal Rangers were dressed very similarly, with black tricorn and green coat having red facings, while the Royal Fencible Americans had white facings and the King's Orange Rangers orange facings. The Loyal American Associators wore civilian clothes but had a distinctive white sash tied around the left arm. The King's Loyal Americans and the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment had dark blue coats with white facings, like the King's Rangers of Canada.

Several corps were dressed in red, like the British regulars: the King's American Regiment, the Prince of Wales' American Regiment, the North Carolina Volunteers and the New Jersey volunteers with blue facings; the Queen's Loyal Rangers, the Pennsylvania Loyalists and the Garrison Battalion with green facings. The Loyal American Regiment and the New York Volunteers were dressed in red with buff facings. The Volunteers of Ireland wore a quite peculiar uniform, which did not have the tricorn as headgear. The King's American Dragoons were dressed similarly to the 17th Light Dragoons, but with Tarleton helmet and dark blue facings on the red coat. The Newfoundland Regiment was uniformed in blue with red facings, and its coat had some additional white lace on the buttonholes. The Loyal American Rangers wore a black light infantry cap together with a red coat that had green facings and additional white lace on the buttonholes; the Carolina Corps had this same uniform but with a black wide-brimmed round hat, with the brim turned up on the left side, and yellow facings. The soldiers of both corps had shoulder wings on their dress. The Jamaica Rangers were uniformed in a more conventional way, with black tricorn and white coat having red facings. The Black Pioneers wore a green single-breasted short jacket, while the Guides and Pioneers had a red single-breasted short jacket with black folded collar and round cuffs. The militiamen of New York wore their civilian clothes, while their officers were dressed in red coats with blue facings. The militiamen of Quebec wore their practical civilian dress during cold months, but during spring and summer they used a more conventional dress with black tricorn and dark green single-breasted coat.

Line infantry musketeer of the Waldeck contingent.
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